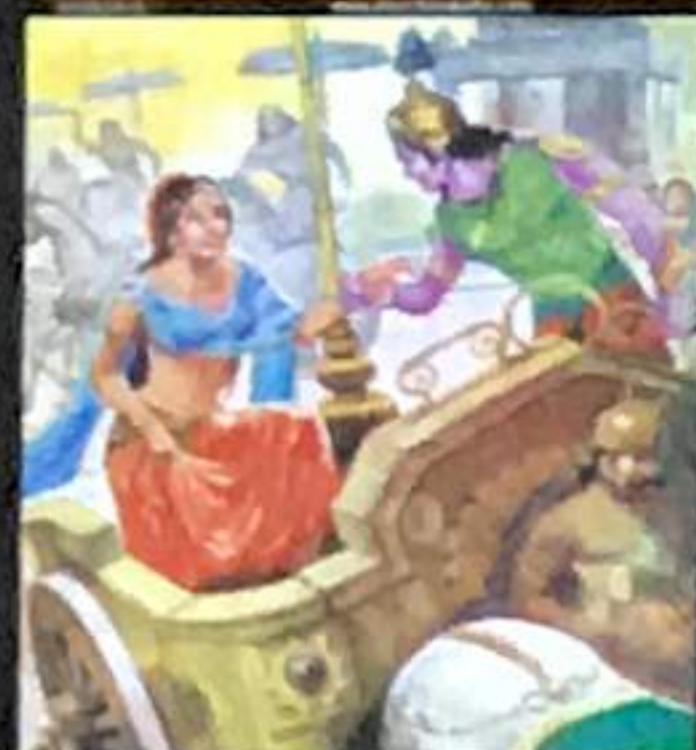


## KRISHNA AND THE FALSE VAASUDEVA

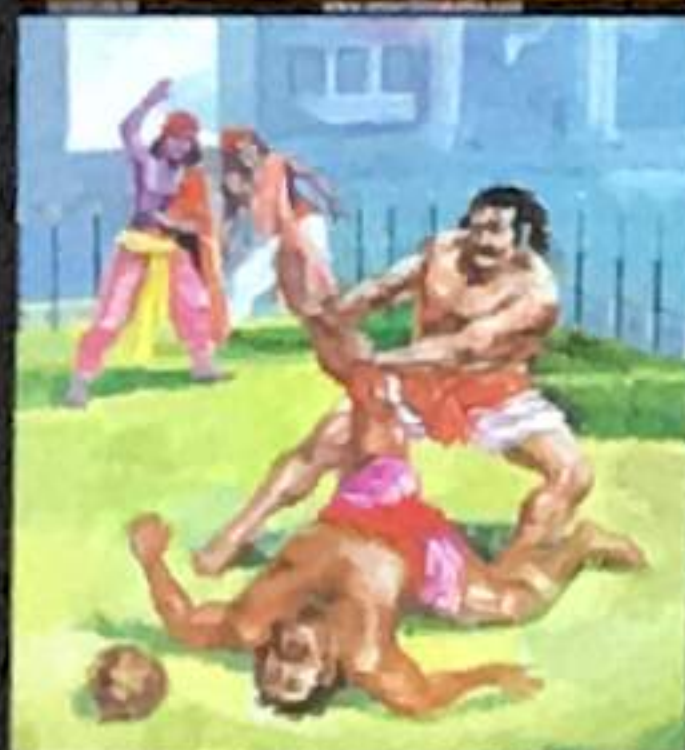
Envy and flattery flourished at the court of the powerful King Vaasudeva. It was a dangerous combination. Vaasudeva became proud and boastful – only because he shared a name with the divine Krishna, also known as Vaasudeva. The foolish king considered himself the lord of the universe! Confusion and calamity resulted, and together made for a tale in the Bhagawat Purana, that is packed with humour and sound advice.

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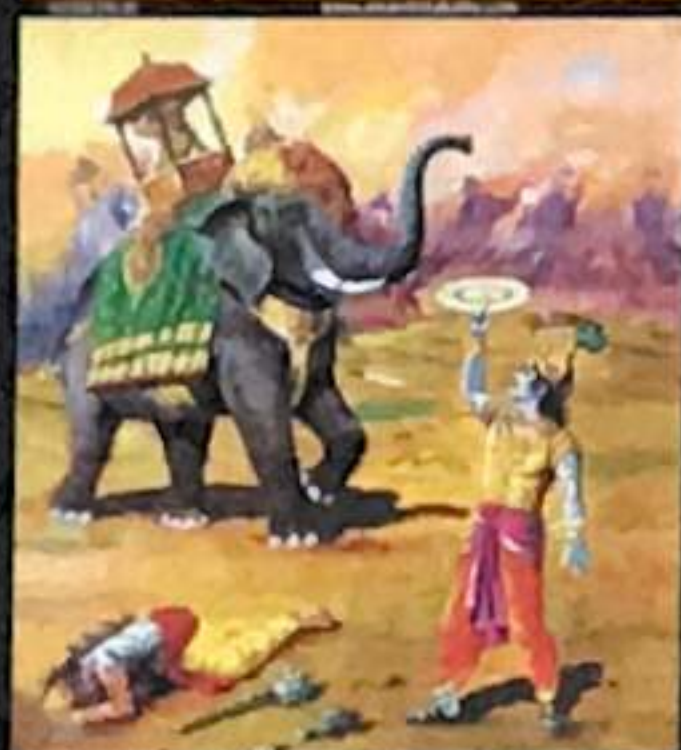
KRISHNA AND RUKMINI



KRISHNA AND JARASANDHA



KRISHNA AND NARAKASURA

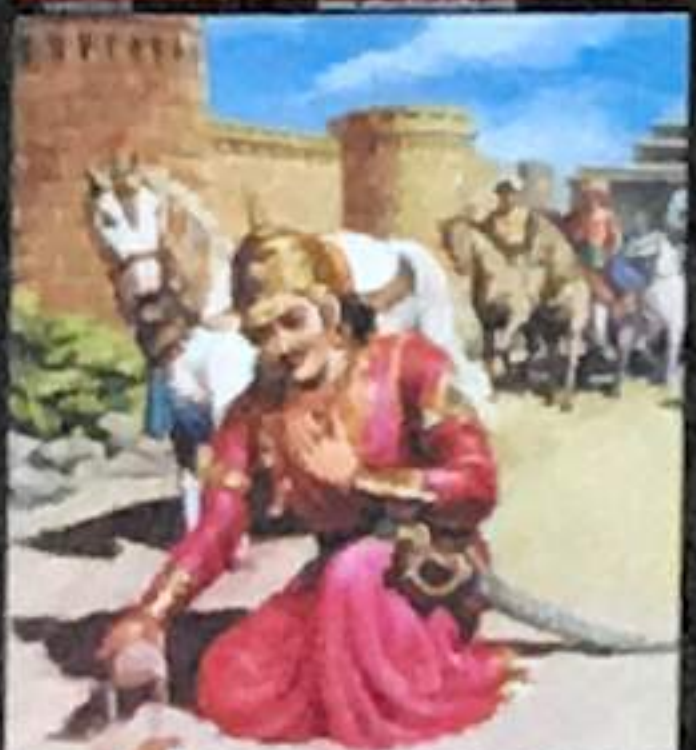


KRISHNA AND SHISHUPALA



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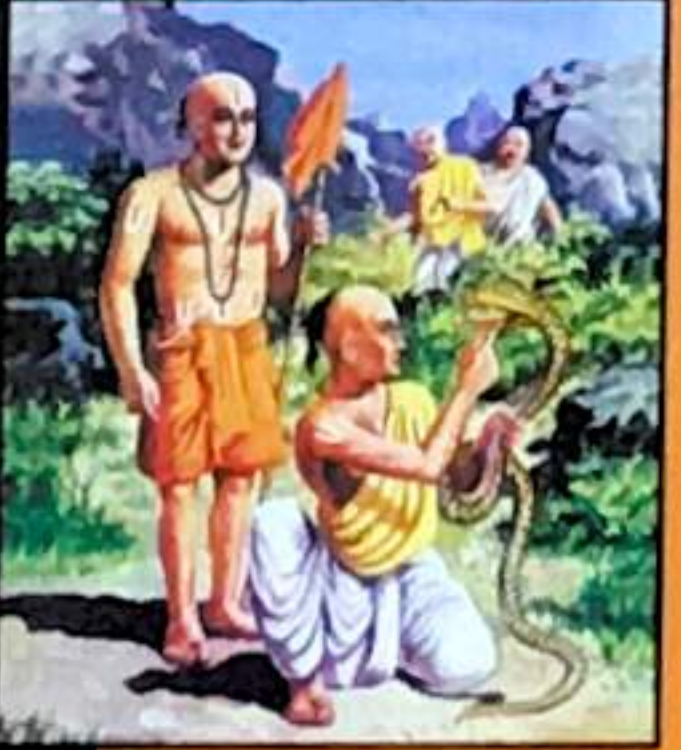
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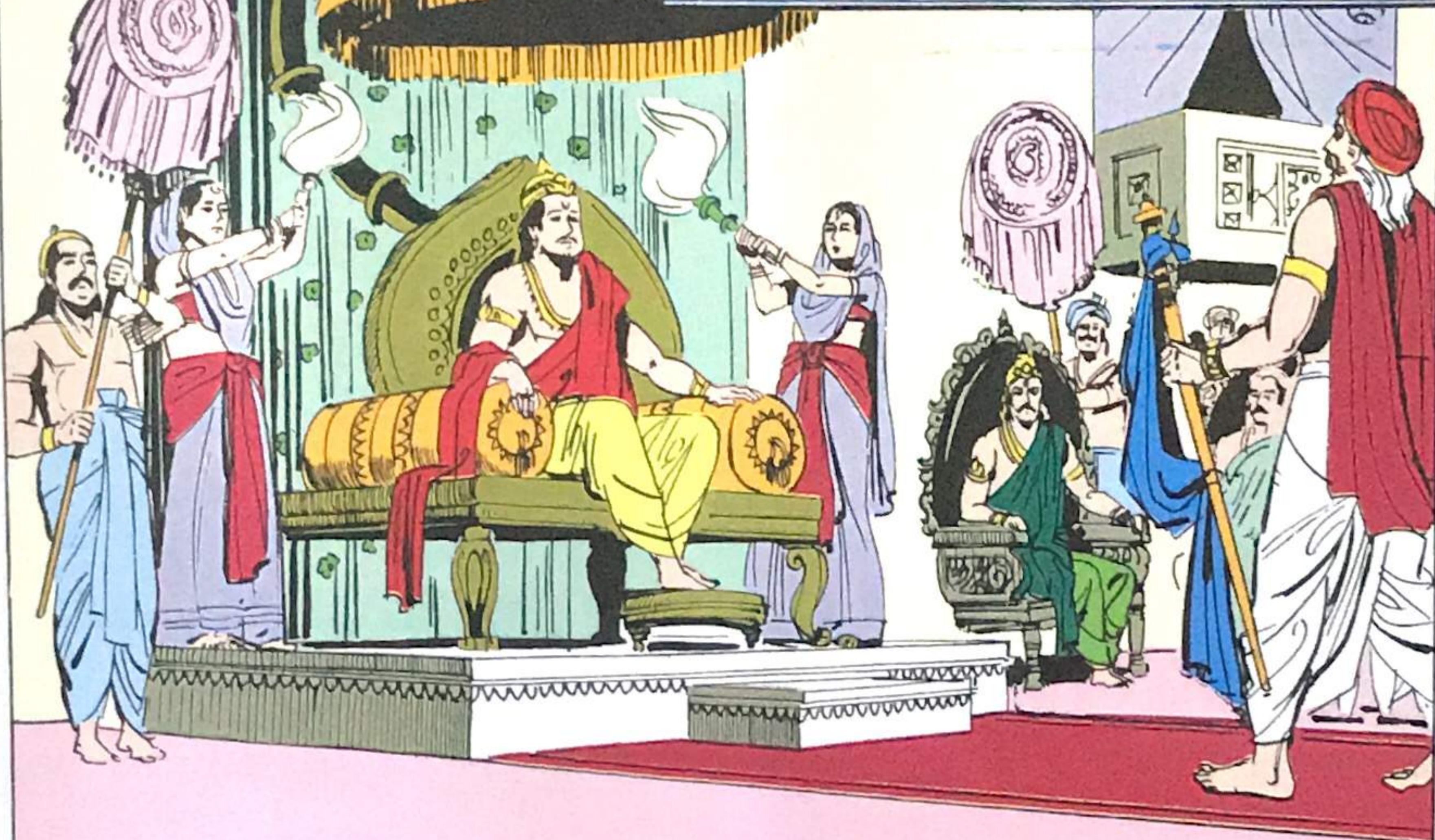
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"Amar Chitra Kathas are a glorious tribute to India's rich cultural heritage. These books have been an integral part of my children's early years, as they have been for many other families across India. Comics are a great way of reaching out to children, inculcating reading habits and driving their quest to learn more about our roots."

- NARAYAN MURTHY, CHIEF MENTOR, INFOSYS



# KRISHNA AND THE FALSE VAASUDEVA



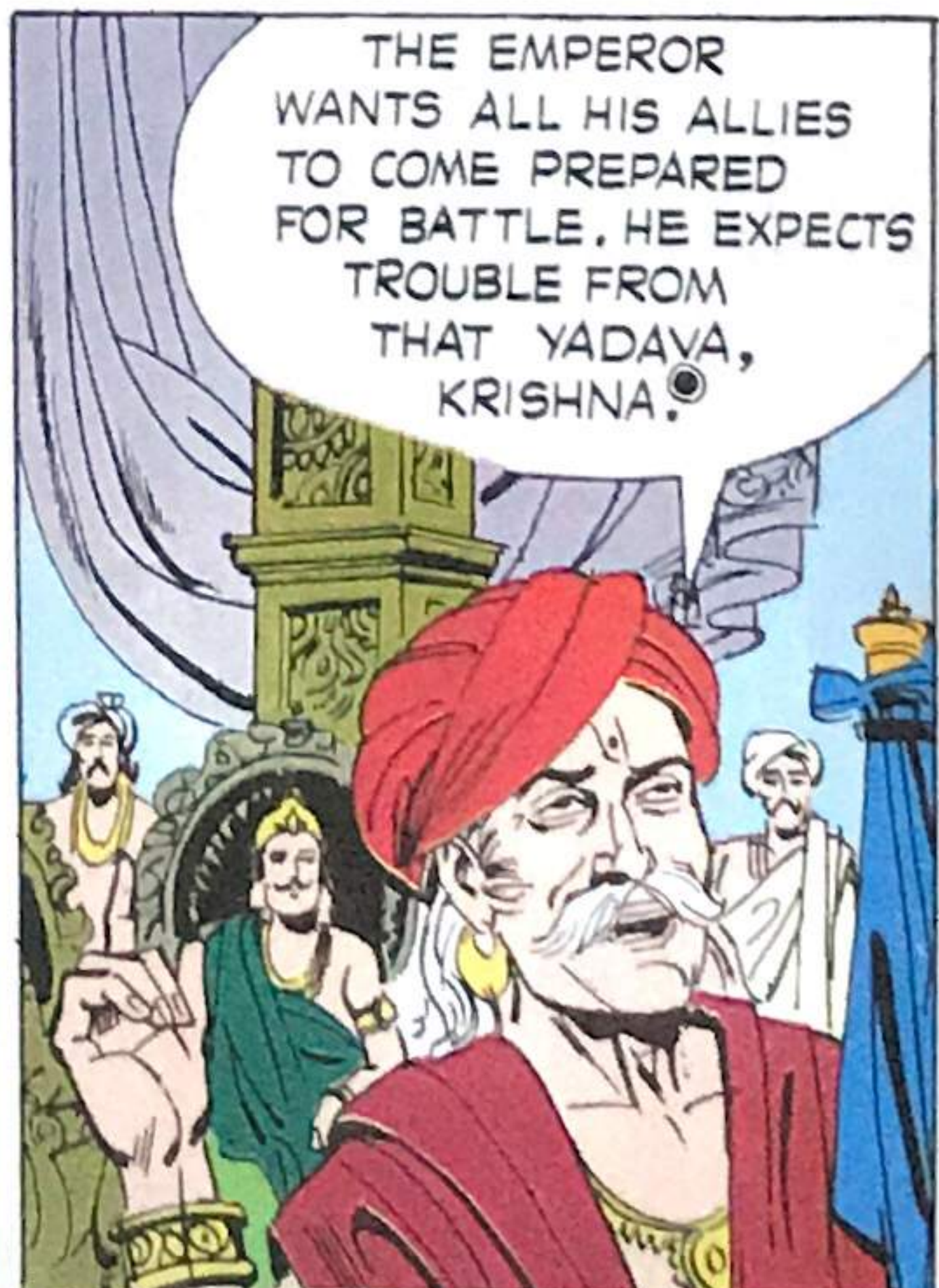
A MESSENGER FROM JARASANDHA, THE EMPEROR OF MAGADHA, CAME TO THE COURT OF VAASUDEVA, THE MIGHTY, BUT STUPID KING OF PUNDRA\*.

THE EMPEROR'S FAVOURITE VASSAL, LORD SHISHUPALA‡, IS GOING TO WED RUKMINI, THE PRINCESS OF VIDARBHA...

THAT PEERLESS BEAUTY! GOOD NEWS, INDEED!

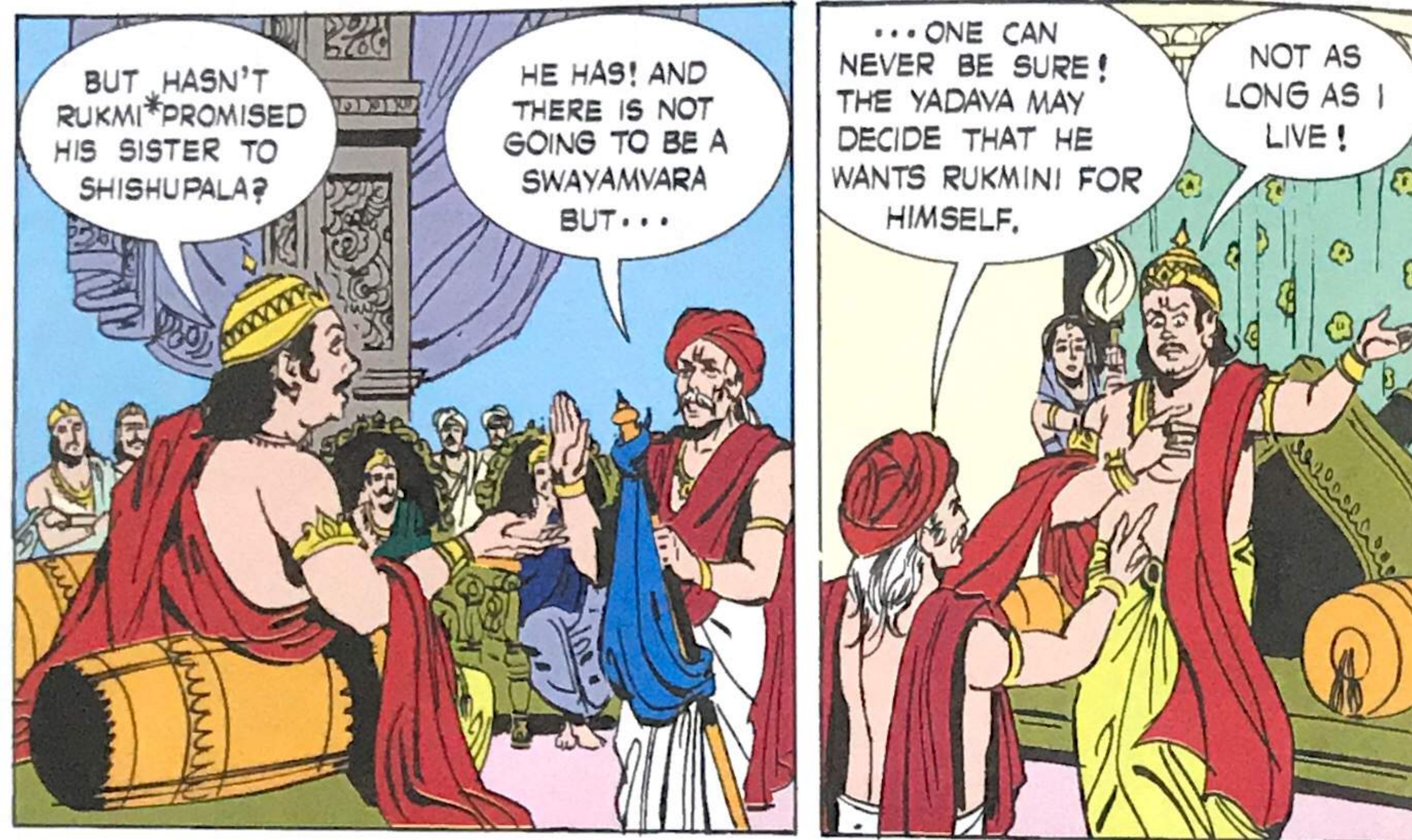


THE EMPEROR WANTS ALL HIS ALLIES TO COME PREPARED FOR BATTLE. HE EXPECTS TROUBLE FROM THAT YADAVA, KRISHNA.●



\* MODERN NORTH BENGAL. ‡ KING OF CHEDI ● ALSO KNOWN AS VAASUDEVA

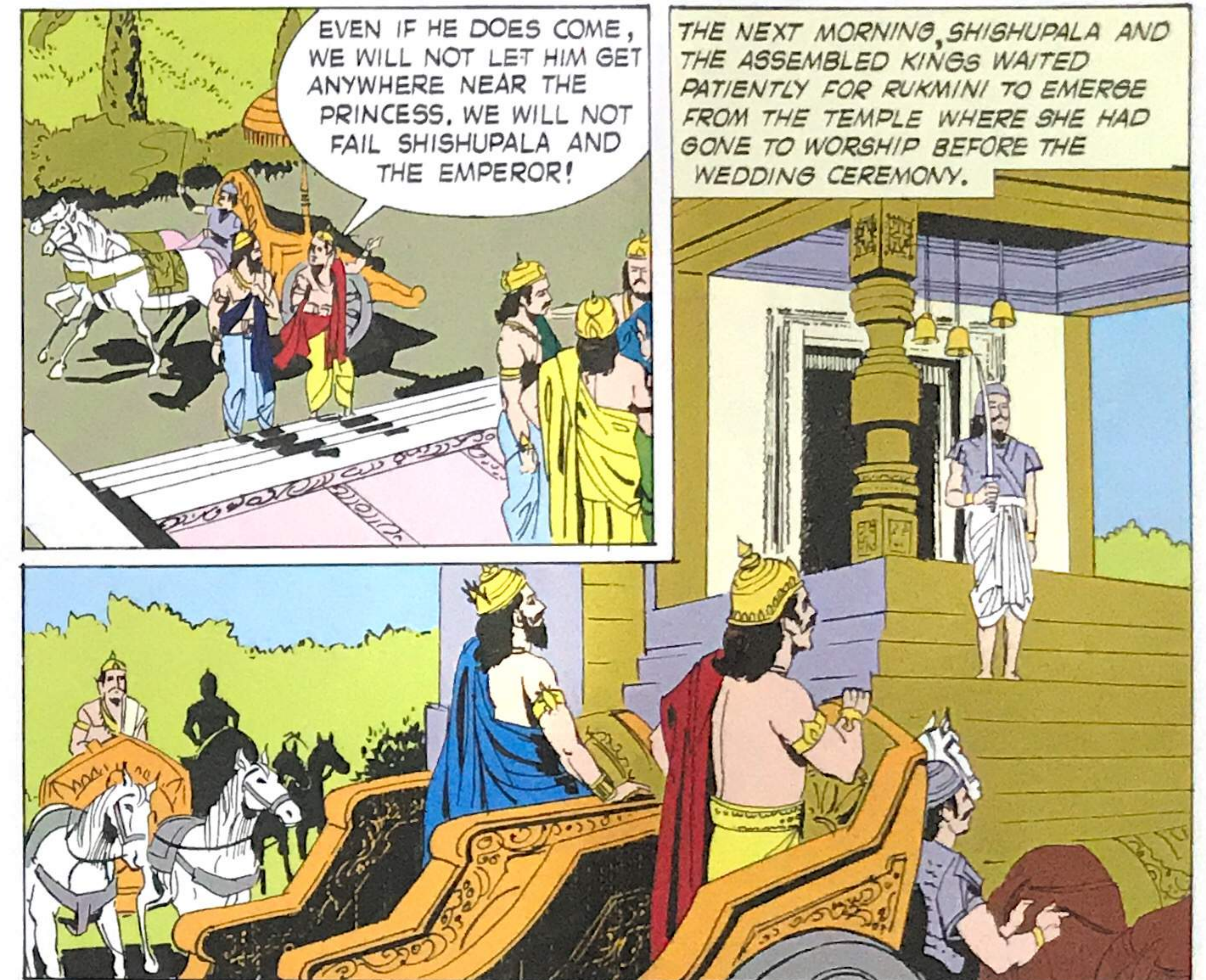




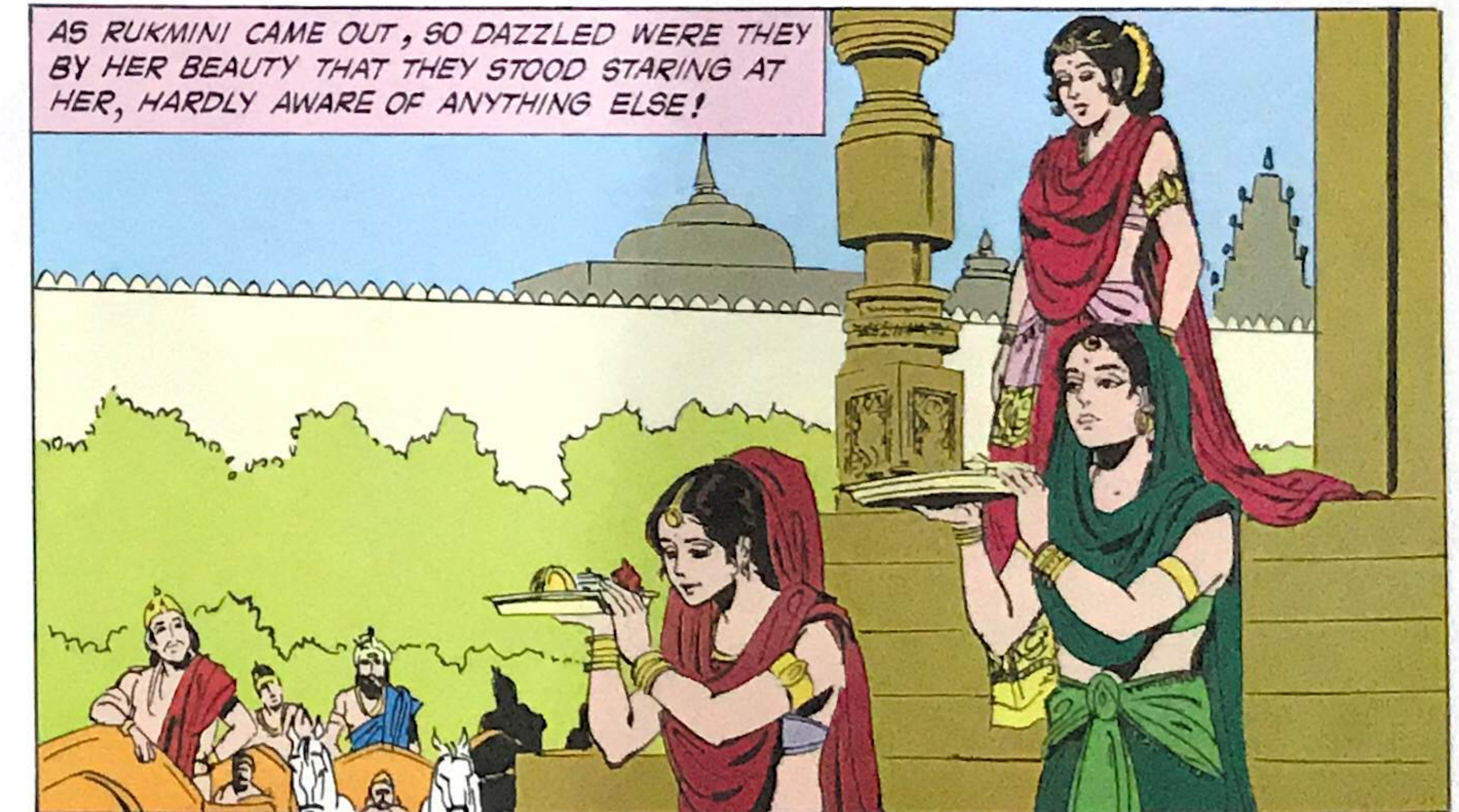
WHEN VAASUDEVA AND HIS ARMY REACHED VIDARBHA, JARASANDHA AND HIS ALLIES WERE ALREADY THERE. AMONG THEM WAS VAASUDEVA'S CLOSE FRIEND, THE KING OF KASHI.



\* RUKMINI'S BROTHER



AS RUKMINI CAME OUT, SO DAZZLED WERE THEY BY HER BEAUTY THAT THEY STOOD STARING AT HER, HARDLY AWARE OF ANYTHING ELSE!





SUDDENLY, AS IF FROM NOWHERE, KRISHNA APPEARED IN HIS CHARIOT...



... WHISKED RUKMINI INTO IT...



... AND DROVE OFF!

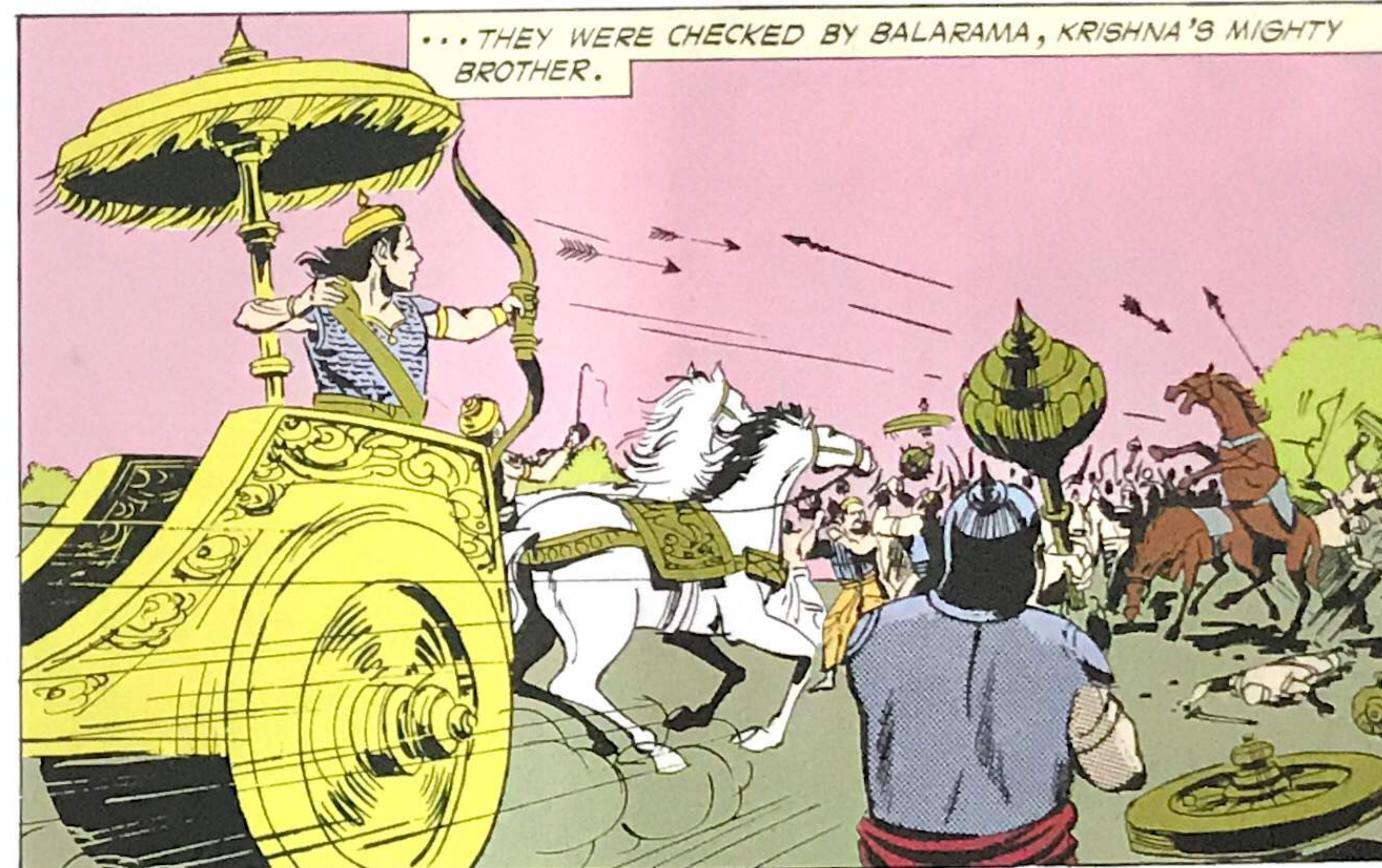


LITTLE DID THEY REALISE THAT RUKMINI HAD MADE HER OWN CHOICE AND HER OWN PLANS.

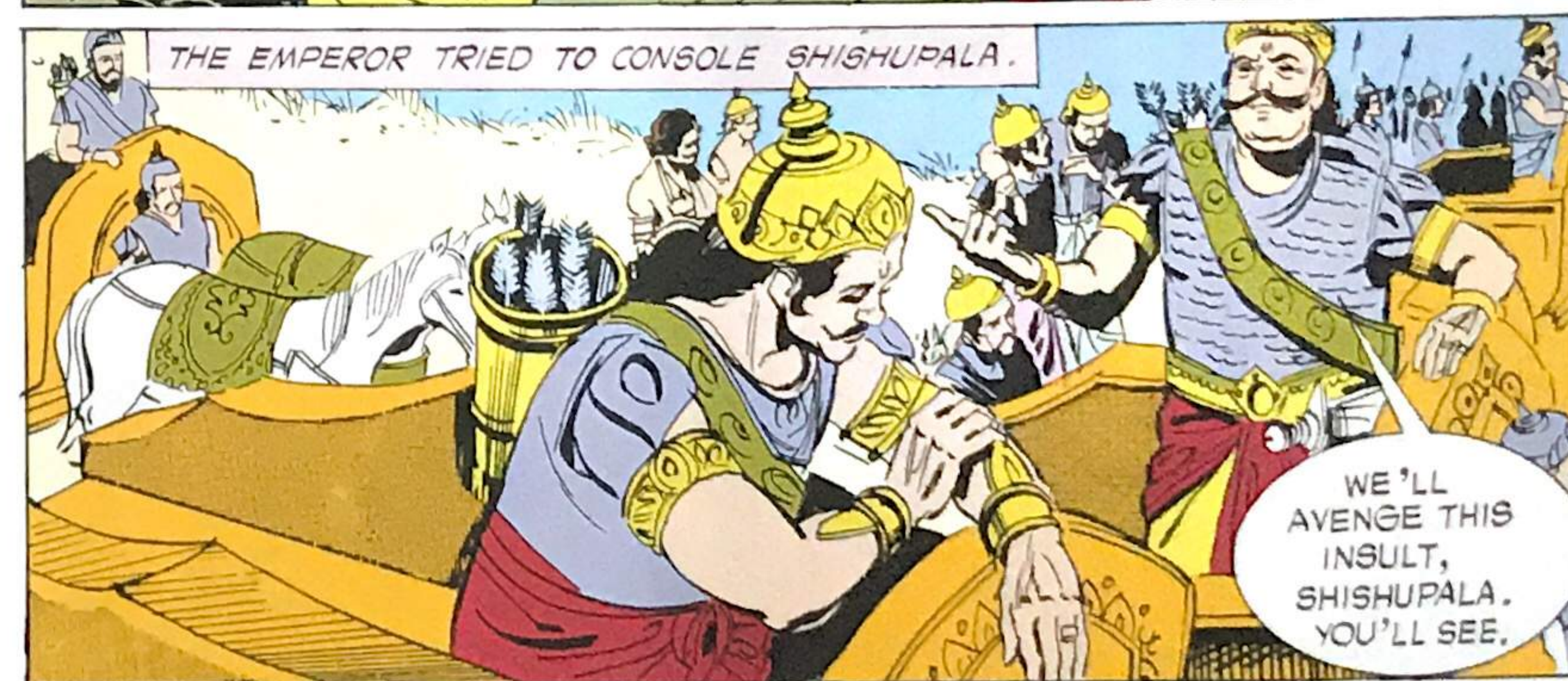
AS THE STUPEFIED EMPEROR AND HIS ALLIES TRIED TO GIVE CHASE...



... THEY WERE CHECKED BY BALARAMA, KRISHNA'S MIGHTY BROTHER.



THE EMPEROR TRIED TO CONSOLE SHISHUPALA.



WE'LL AVENGE THIS INSULT, SHISHUPALA. YOU'LL SEE.



WHILE THE EMPEROR PLANNED REVENGE, VAASUDEVA RETURNED TO HIS CAPITAL, A DEJECTED MAN.

HE WAS ONE AND WE WERE MANY. YET HE CARRIED OFF RUKMINI! UNDER OUR VERY NOSE!



HIS COURTIER'S WERE WORRIED.

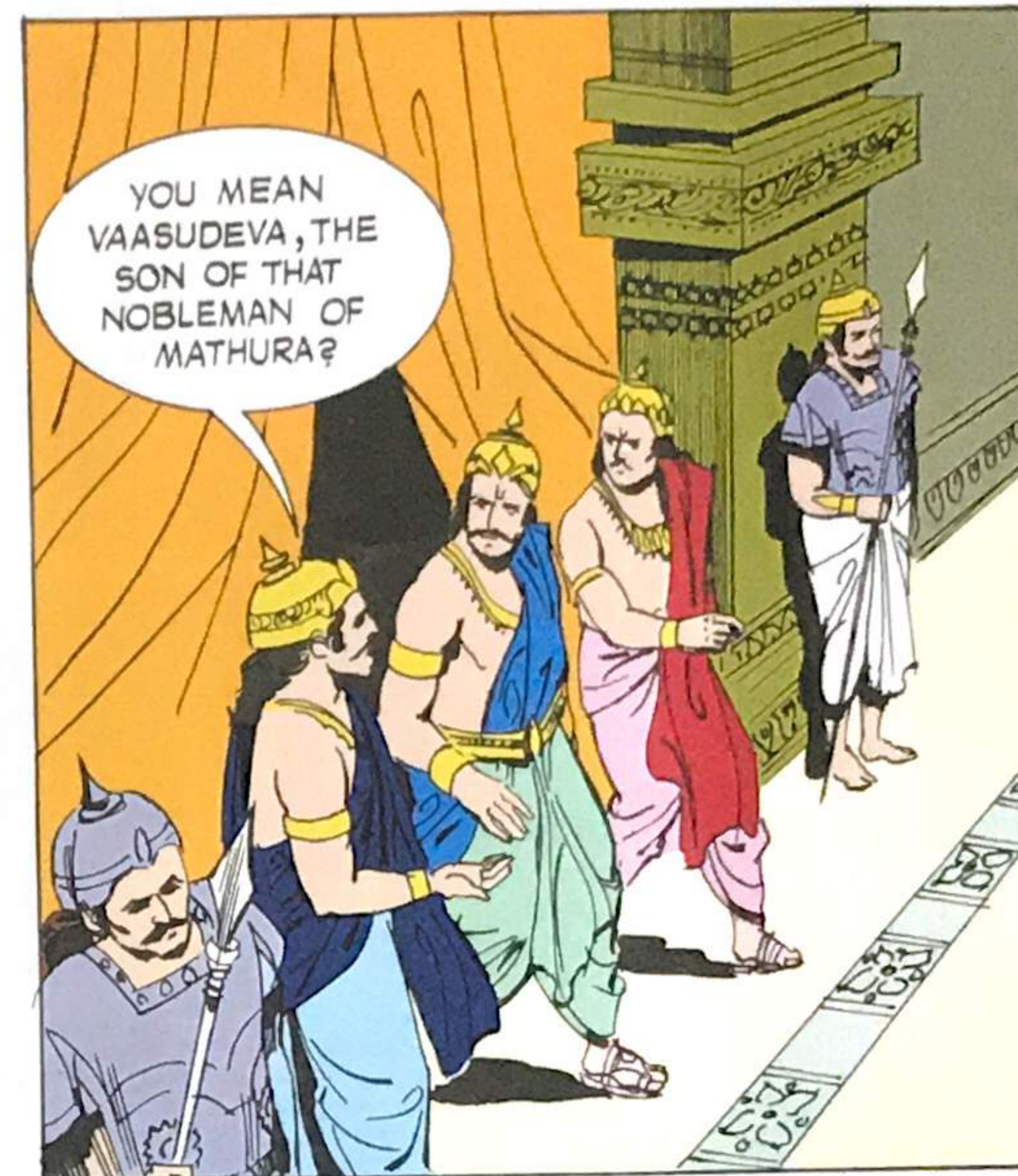
THIS WILL NEVER DO! IF THE KING REMAINS SO LISTLESS, THE KINGDOM WILL BE OPEN TO INVADERS AND OUR PEOPLE WILL BECOME SLAVES.



IT'S THAT KRISHNA WHO HAS DONE THIS TO HIM.



YOU MEAN VAASUDEVA, THE SON OF THAT NOBLEMAN OF MATHURA?



YES! THE PEOPLE REVERE HIM AS LORD VISHNU HIMSELF COME DOWN TO EARTH. I'M SURE THAT IS WHAT MAKES HIM SO VAIN AND SELF-CONFIDENT.



SUDDENLY ONE OF THE COURTIER'S SNAPPED HIS FINGERS.

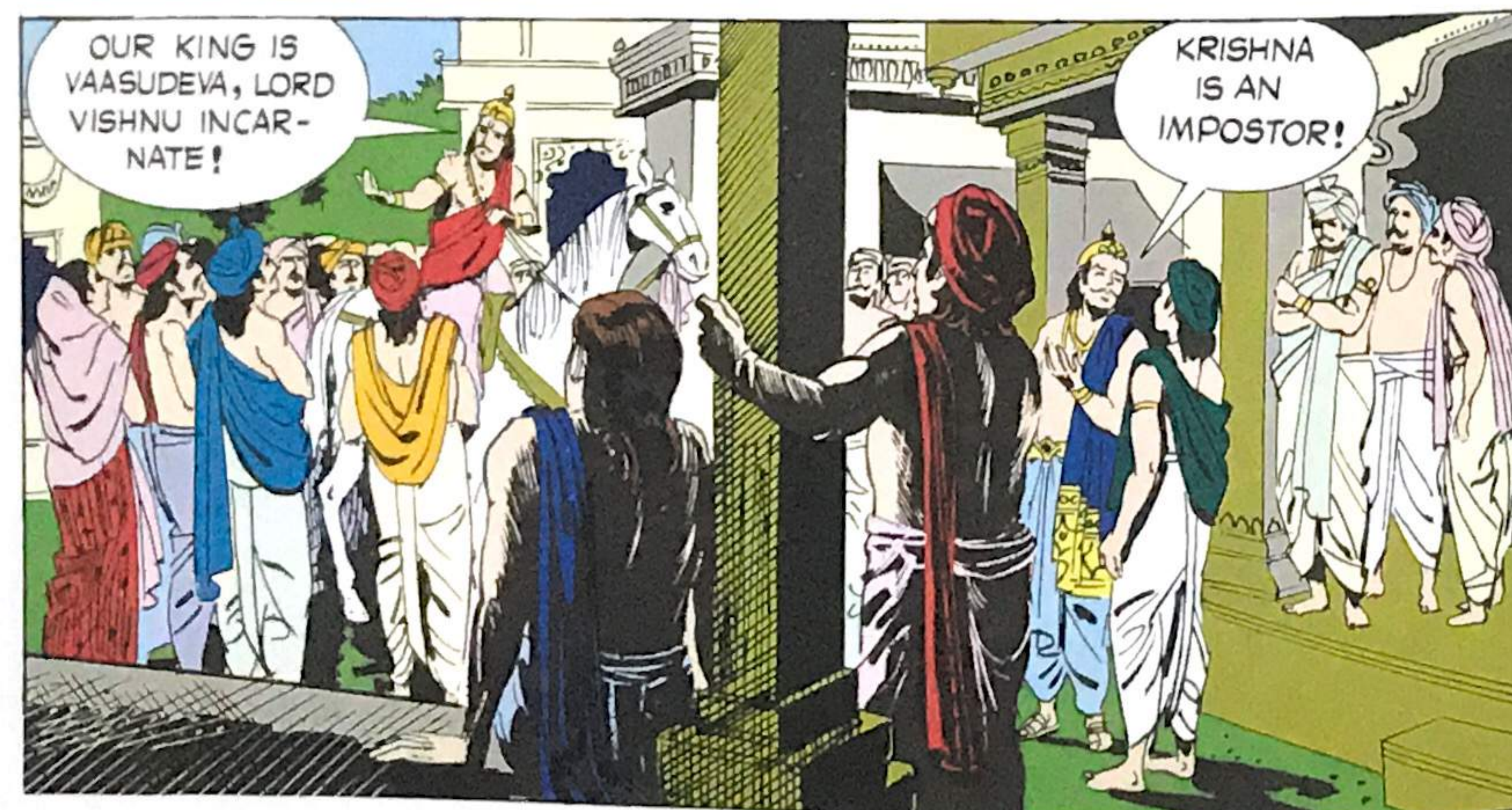
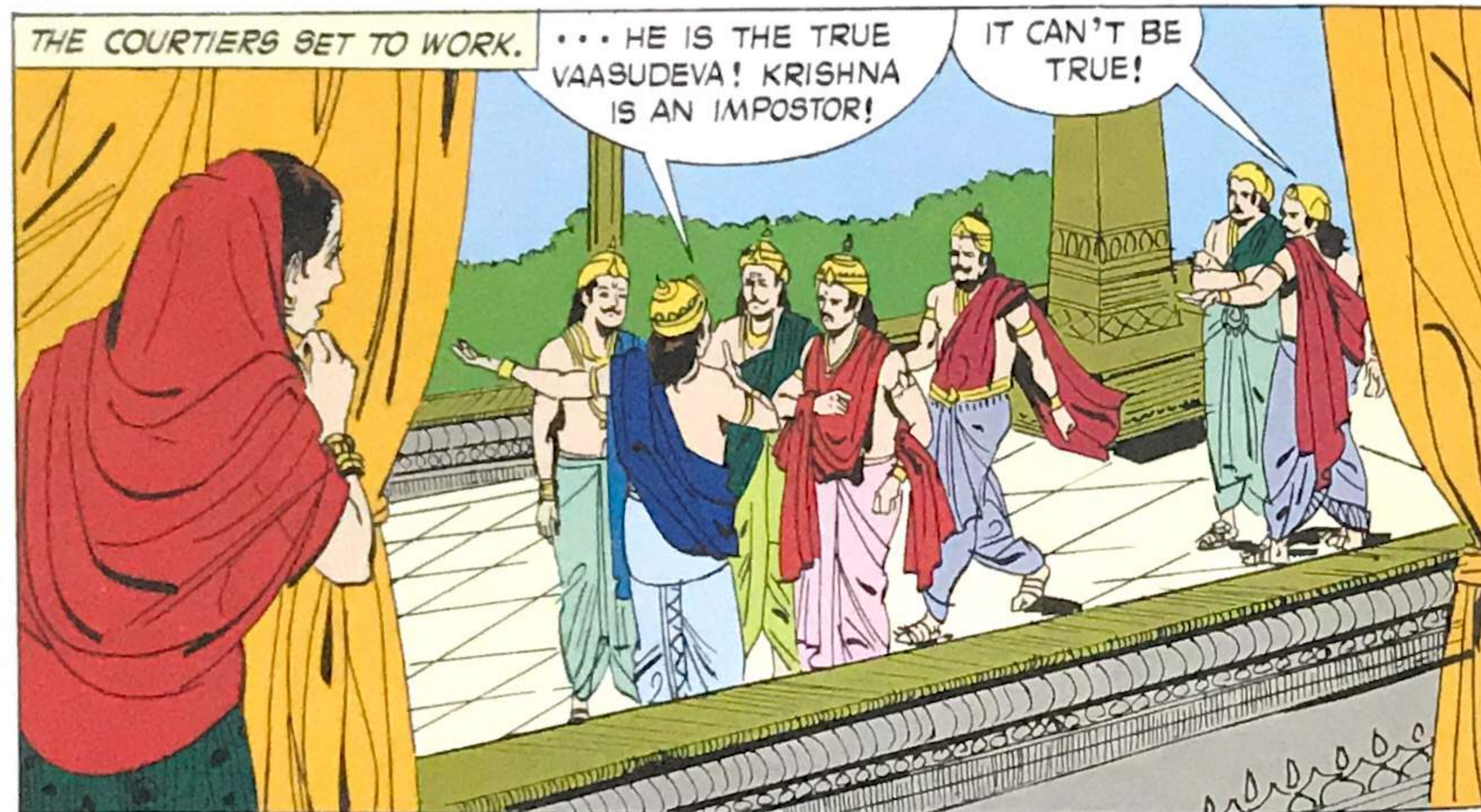
I HAVE AN IDEA! WHY NOT PROCLAIM OUR KING THE LORD INCARNATE, AND KRISHNA AN IMPOSTOR?



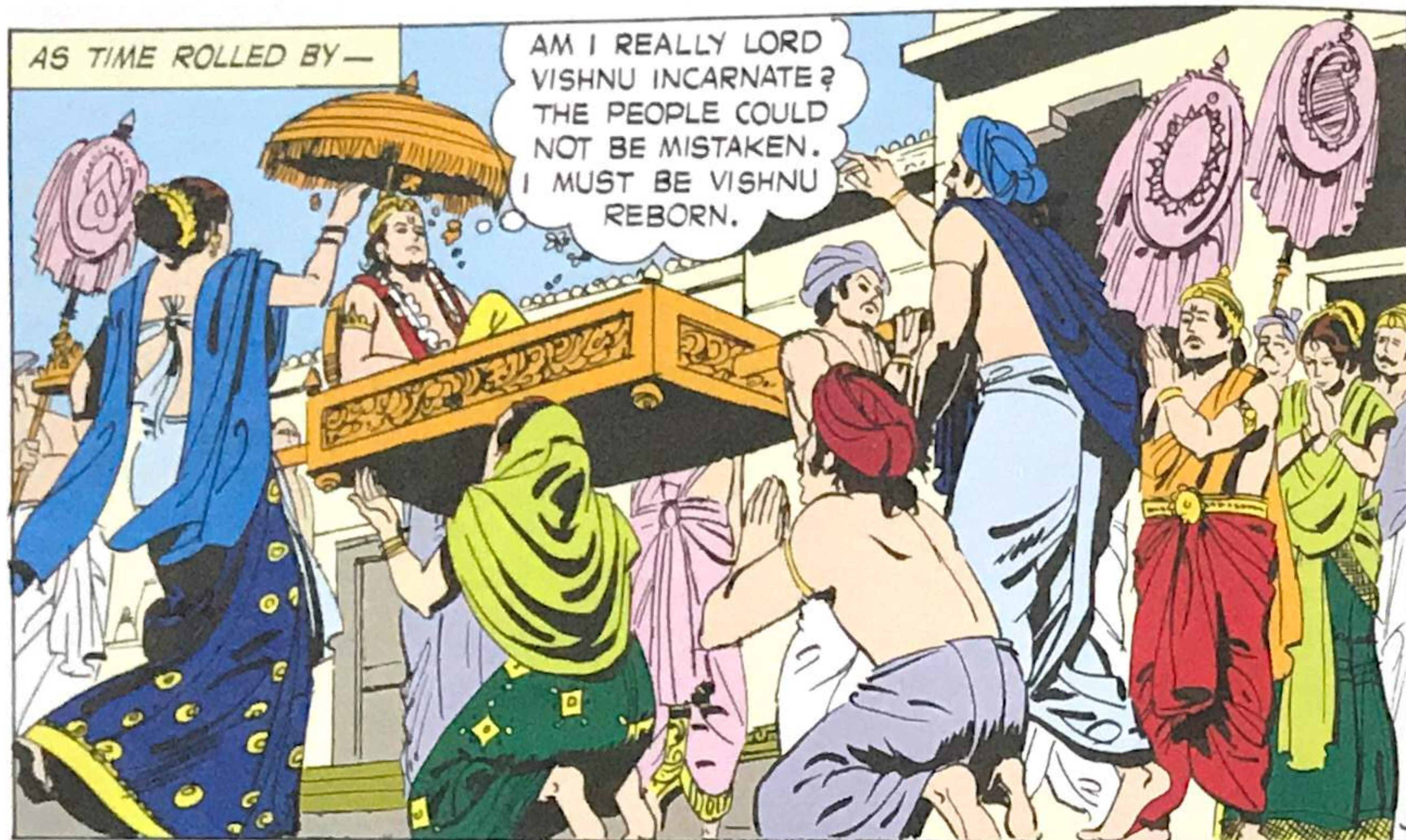
IMPOSSIBLE! OUR KING HIMSELF WILL NOT BELIEVE IT.



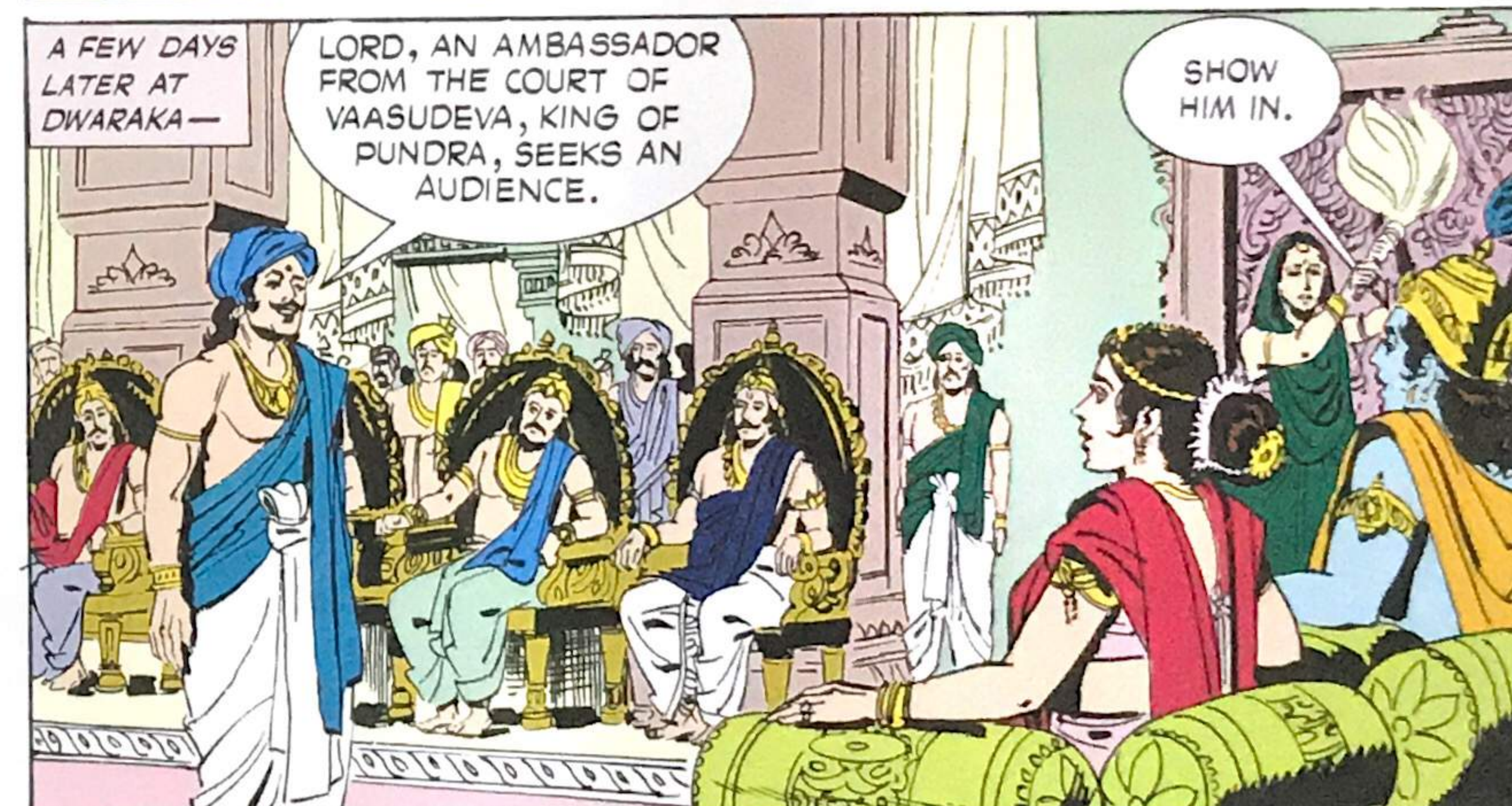








AND THE KING BELIEVED HIMSELF TO BE VISHNU. AND HE BEGAN TO DRESS LIKE KRISHNA, THE VAASUDEVA.





HIS QUESTION WAS SOON ANSWERED.

OUR DIVINE KING, VISHNU INCARNATE, SAYS: "COME TO PUNDRA AND GIVE UP MY DISCUS, YOU FOOLISH MAN. LAY ASIDE MY INSIGNIA AND MY NAME. IF YOU COME AND PAY HOMAGE TO ME, I WILL VOUCHSAFE YOUR SAFETY."

KRISHNA WAS AMUSED.

OH! SO THAT'S IT! VAASUDEVA HAS DIVINE DESIGNS!

GO TO VAASUDEVA AND TELL HIM THIS FROM ME...

WHEN THE MESSENGER RETURNED TO PUNDRA —

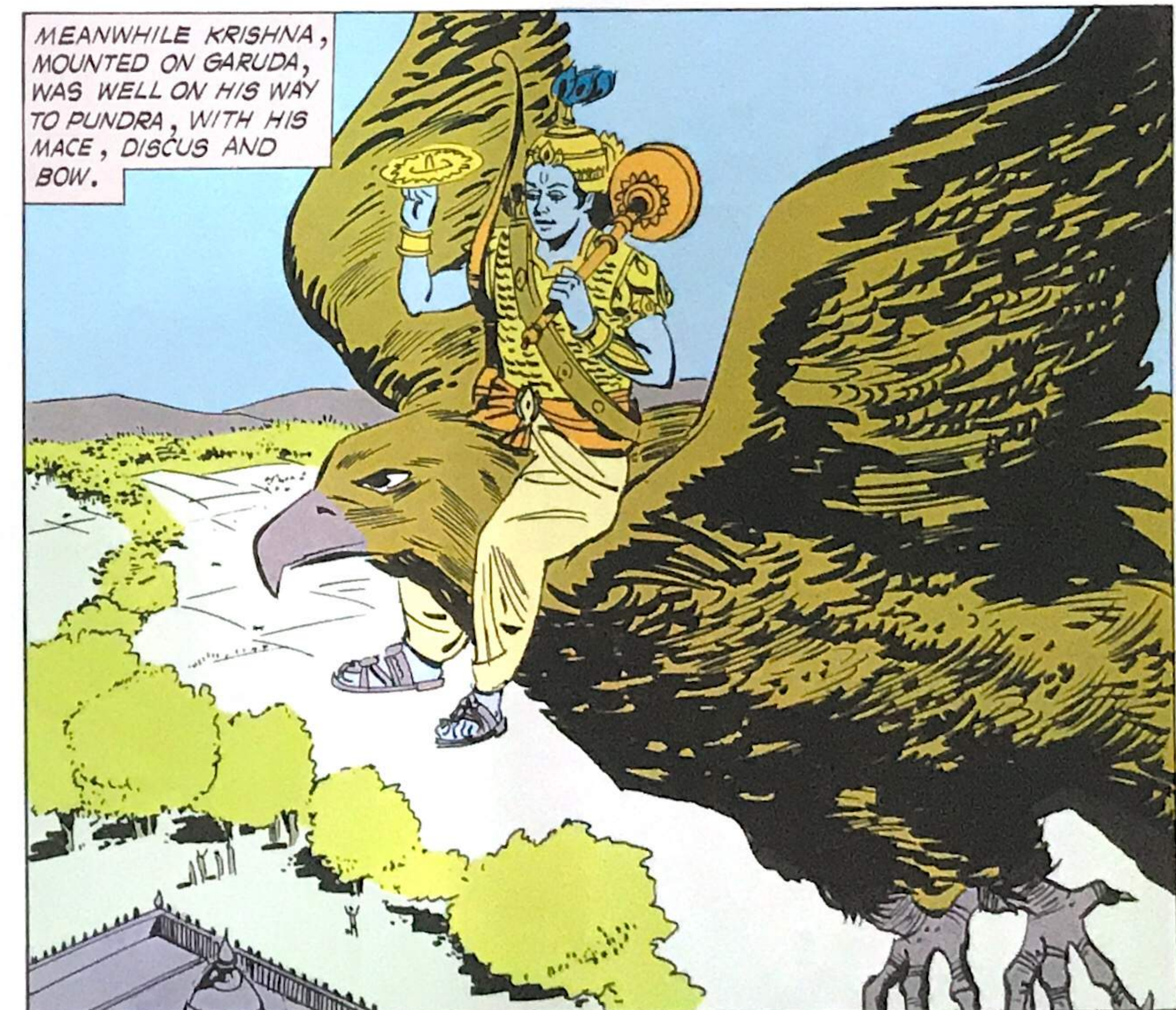
WHAT DID HE SAY? WAS HE ANGRY?

NO, MY LORD. HE SAID SINCE YOU COMMAND HIM TO COME, HE WILL OBEY IMMEDIATELY. HE WILL BRING THE DISCUS, HIS EMBLEM, AND CONSIGN IT TO YOU. AND...

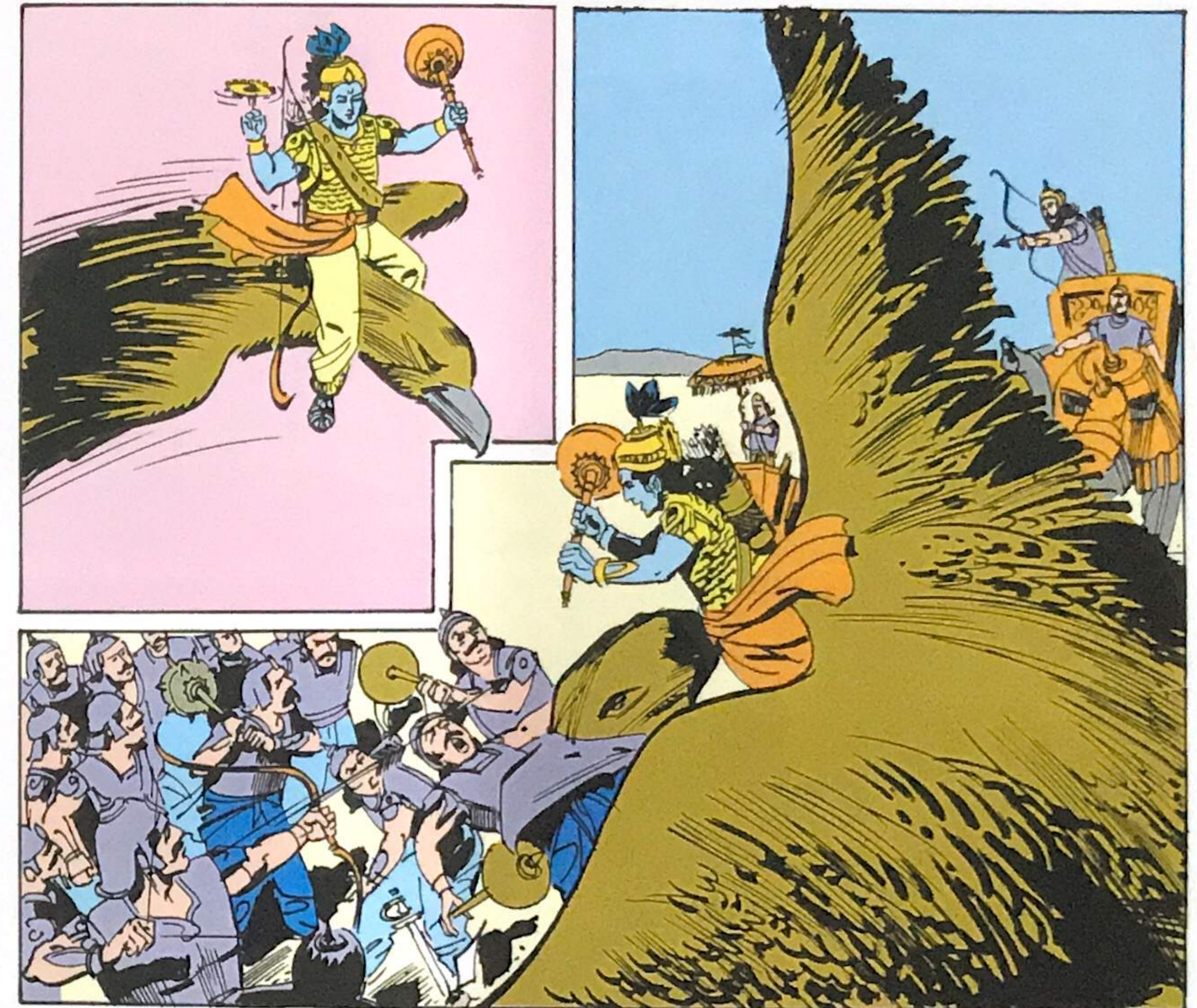
... SEEKING ASYLUM WITH YOU, HE WILL ENSURE THAT HE WILL NEVER MORE HAVE ANYTHING TO DREAD FROM YOU.

WHAT! IS KRISHNA GIVING IN SO EASILY? I AM INDEED FORTUNATE!

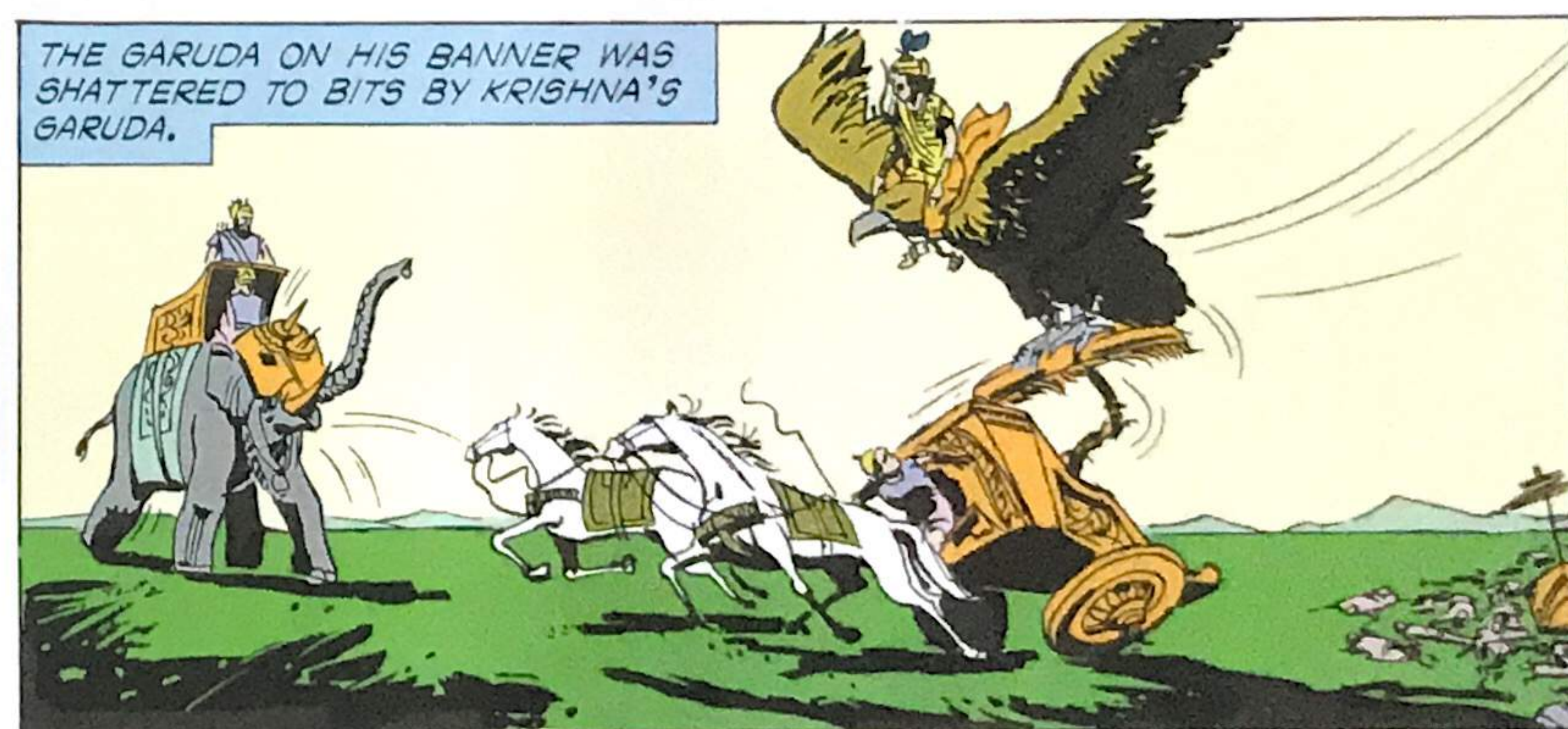
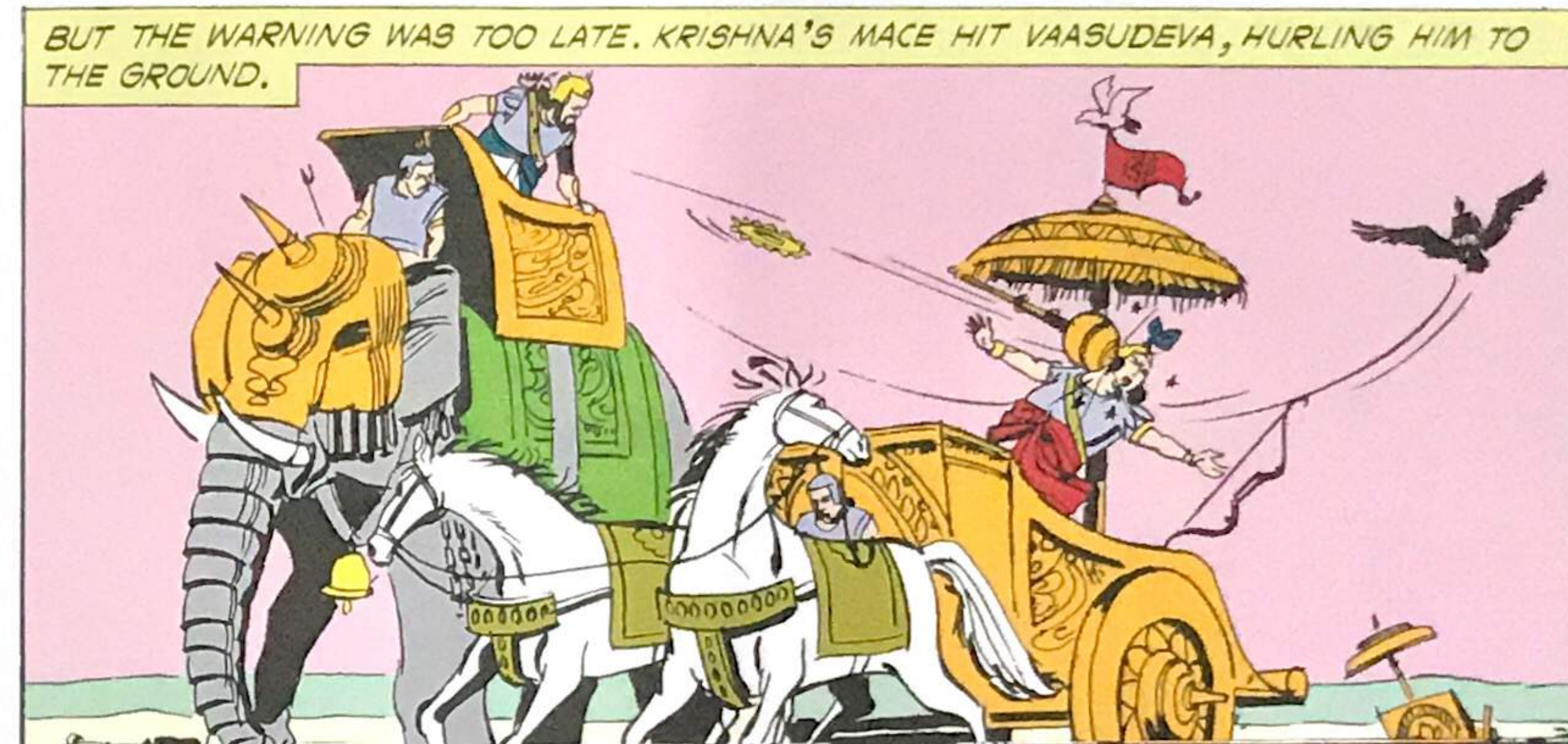
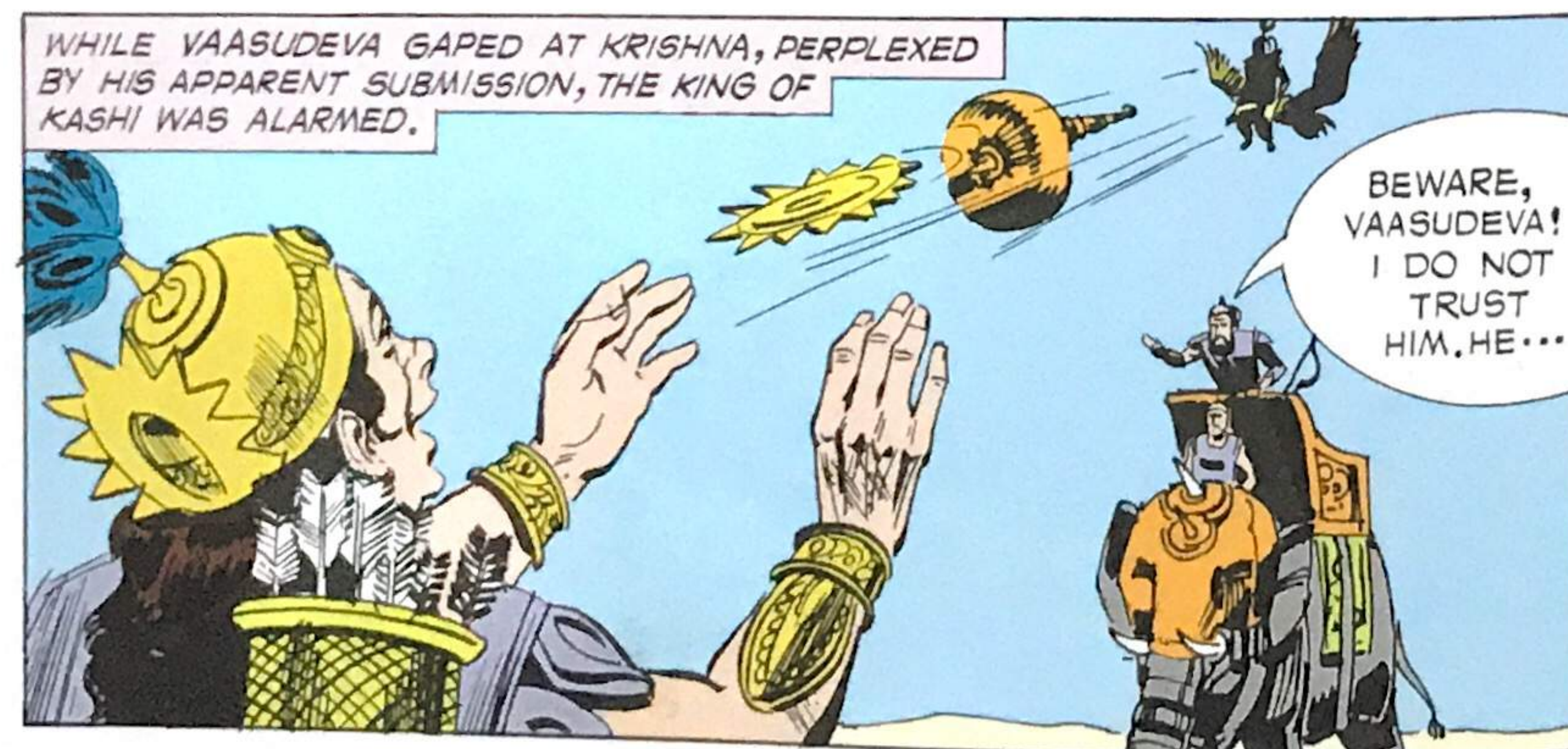




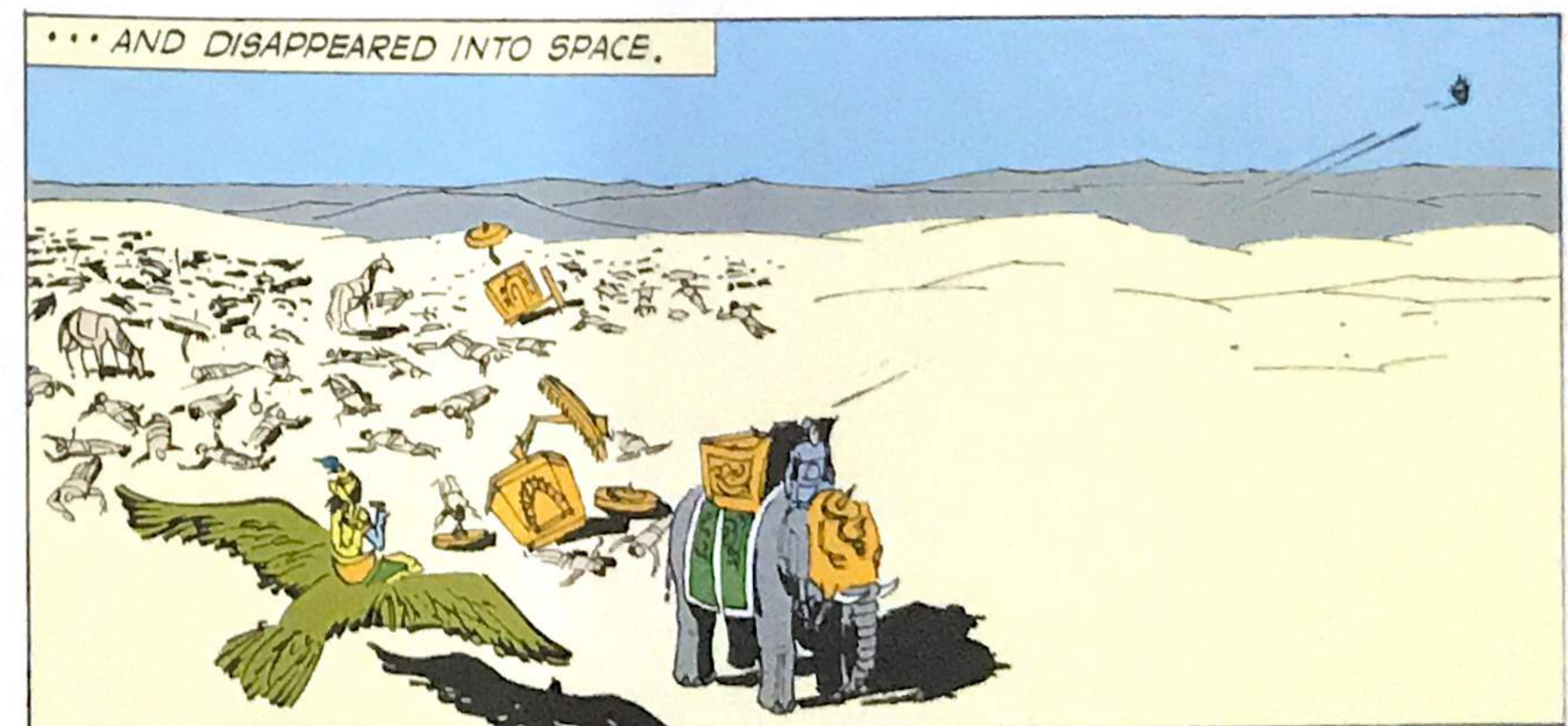
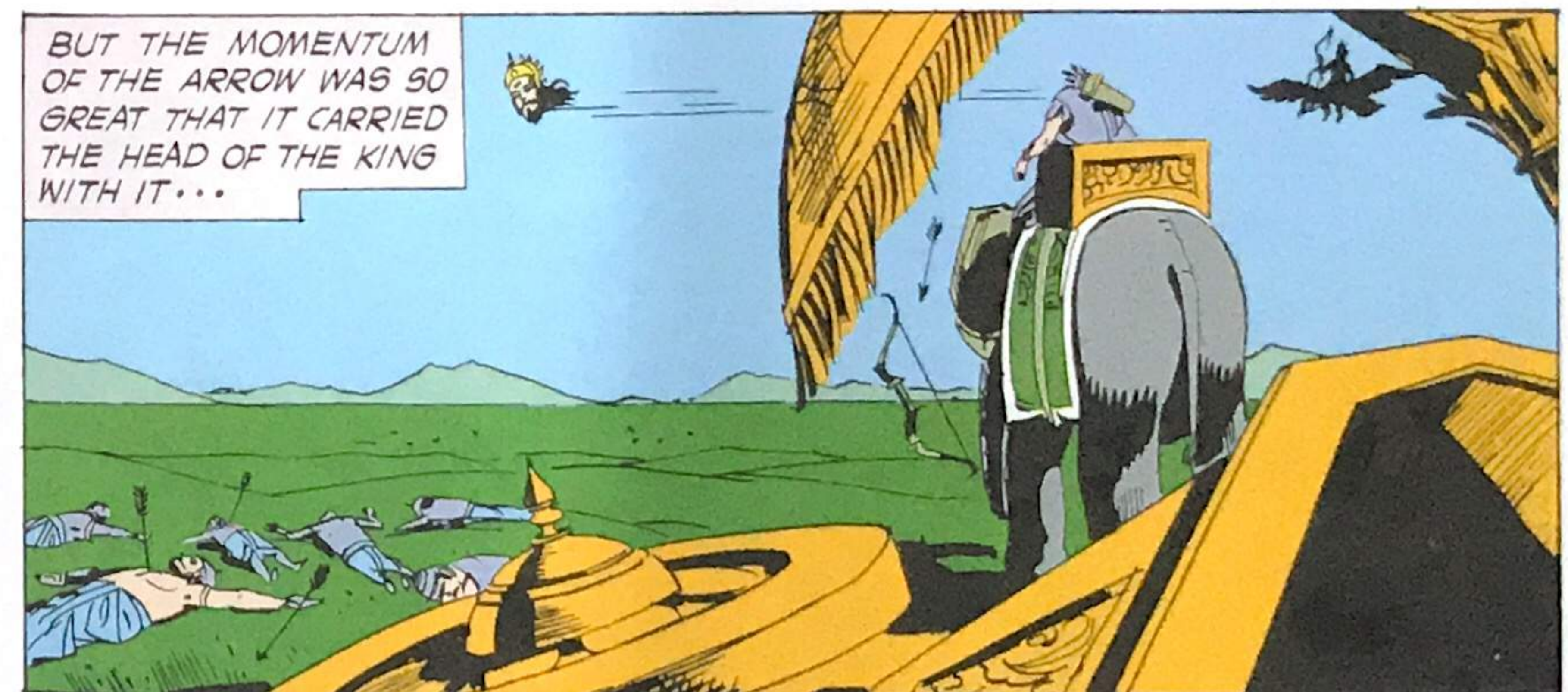
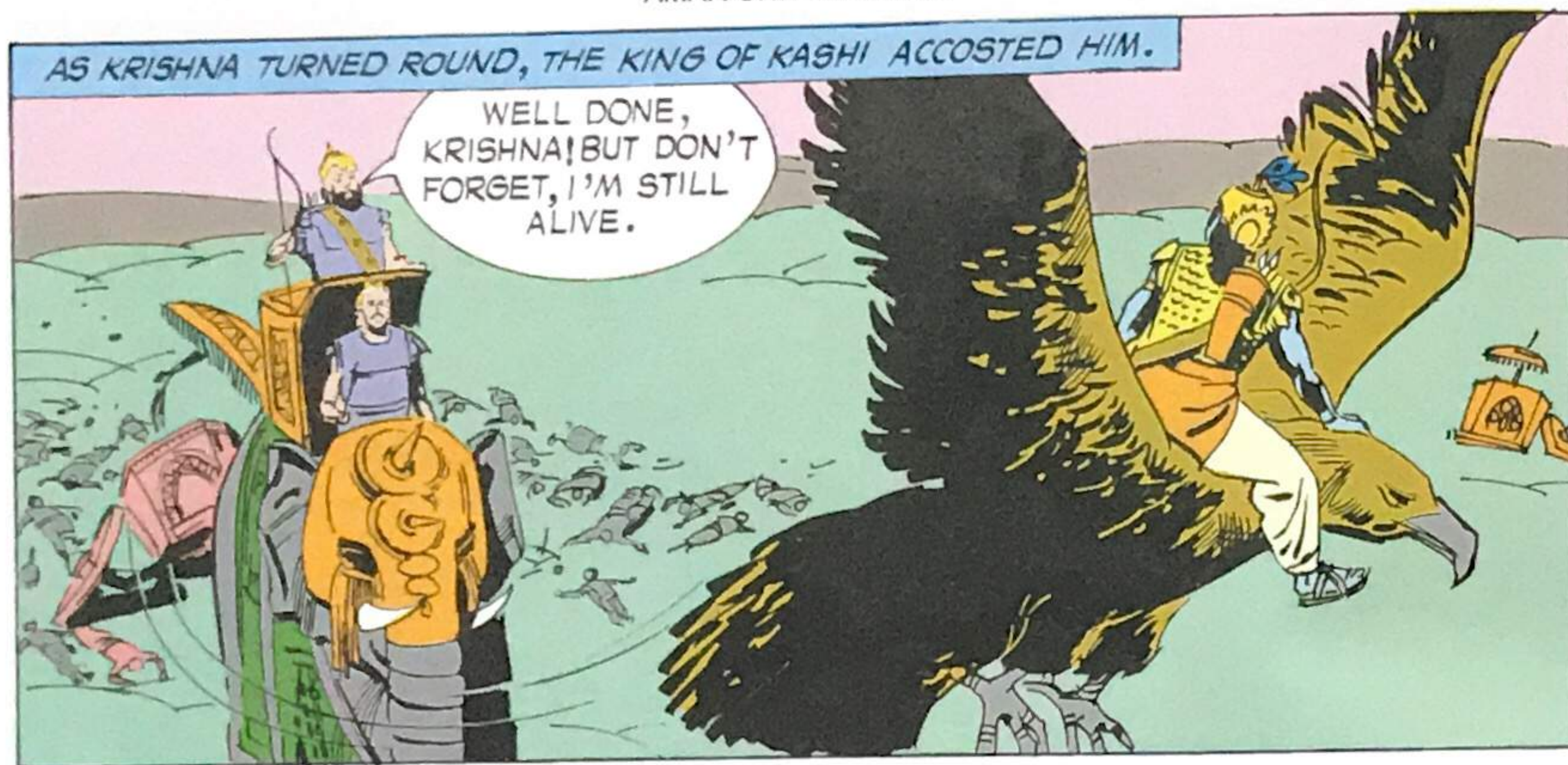














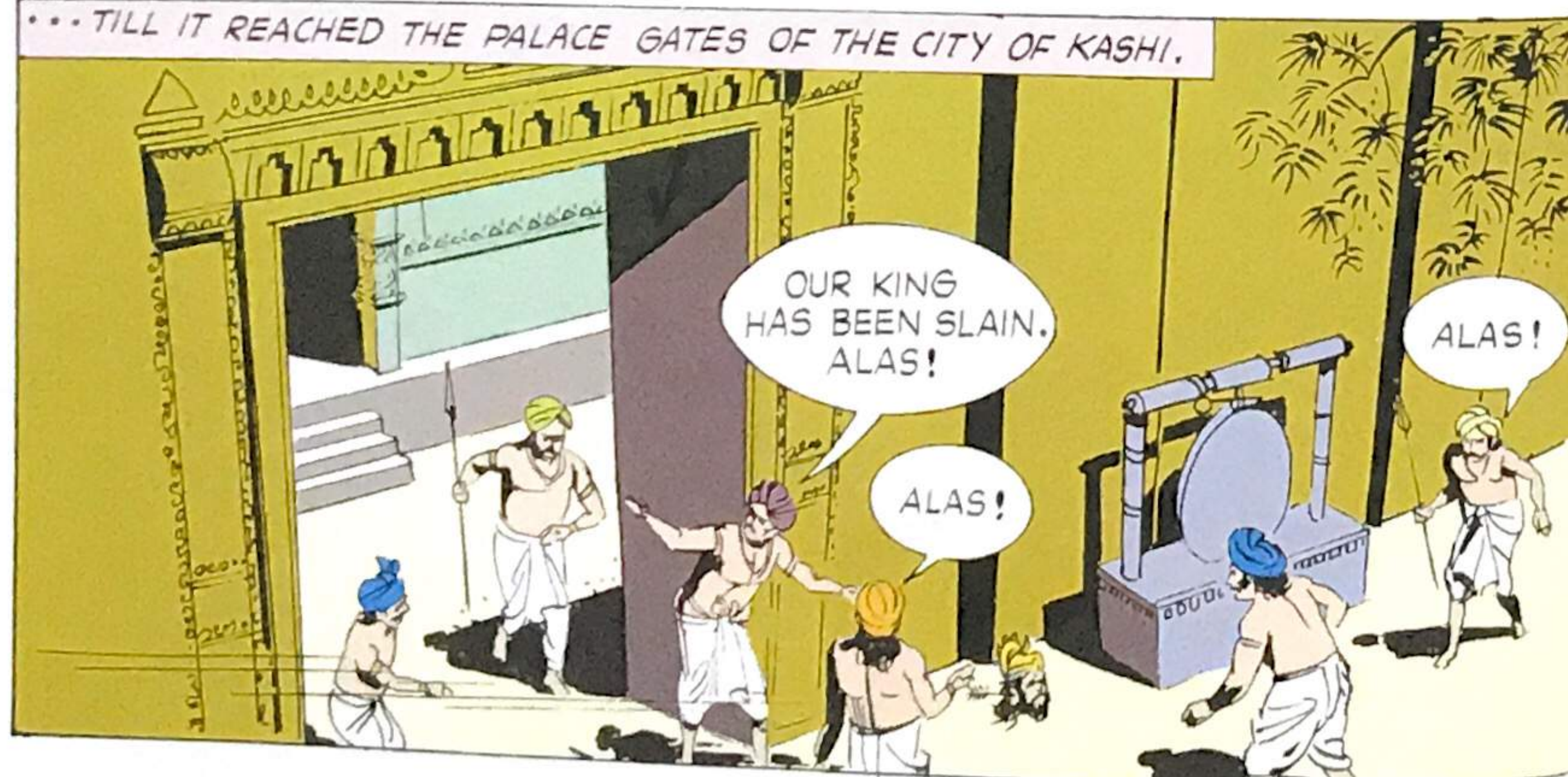
A VICTORIOUS KRISHNA RETURNED TO DWARAKA WHERE HE WAS RECEIVED BY HIS REJOICING SUBJECTS.



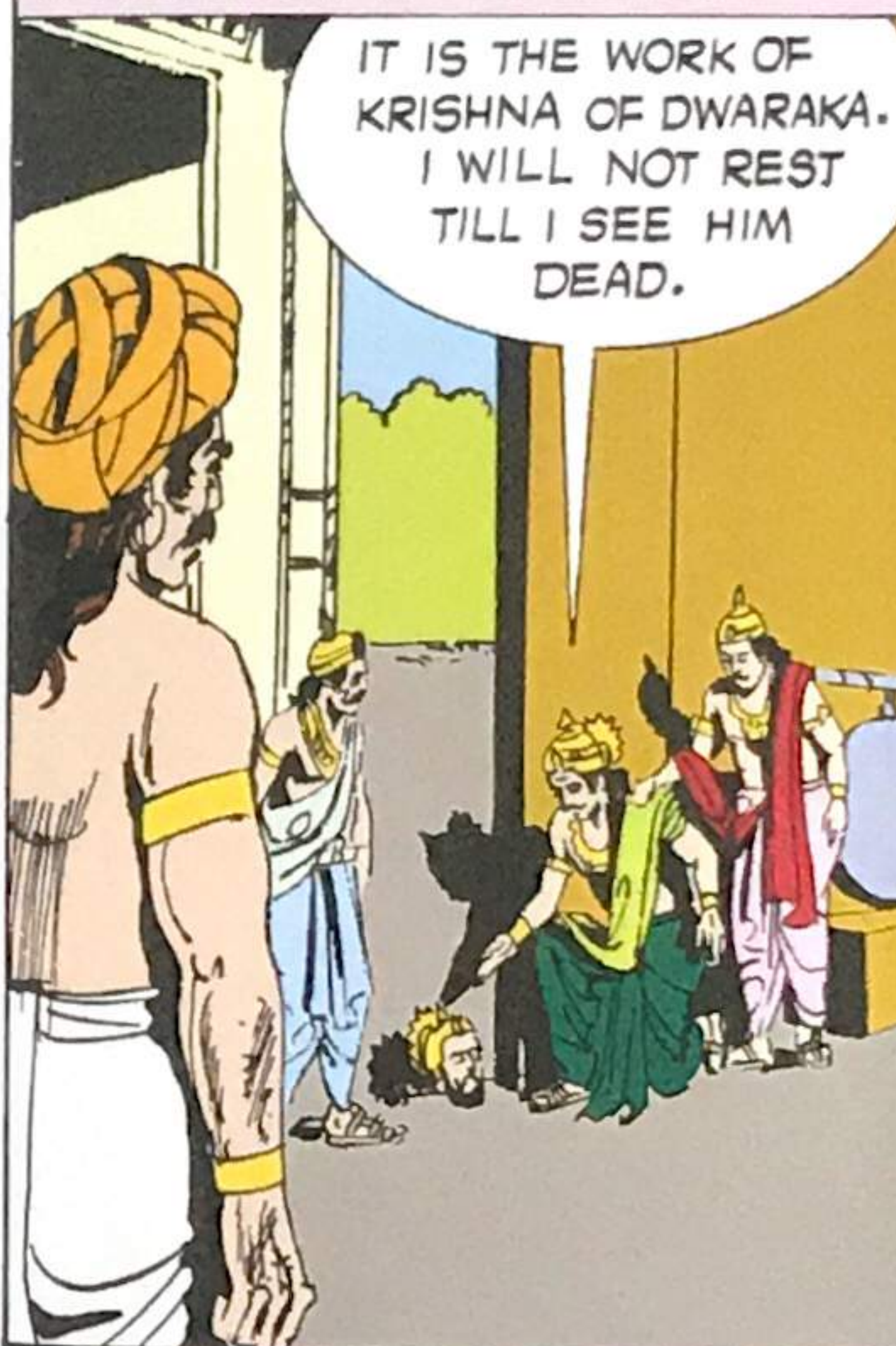
MEANWHILE, THE ARROW CARRYING THE HEAD OF THE KING OF KASHI, WHIZZED THROUGH THE AIR...



...TILL IT REACHED THE PALACE GATES OF THE CITY OF KASHI.



WHEN SUDAKSHINA, THE SON OF THE KING OF KASHI, HEARD THEIR CRIES, HE CAME OUT OF THE PALACE.



ALONG WITH HIS FAMILY PRIEST, SUDAKSHINA BEGAN TO PERFORM A YAGNA.



SUDDENLY THE SACRIFICIAL FIRE BLAZED HIGH...



...AND FROM IT EMERGED A FORMIDABLE FEMALE, WITH FLAMES OF FIRE LEAPING OUT OF HER HAIR.





ROARING ANGRILY, SHE CHARGED THROUGH THE AIR TOWARDS DWARAKA.

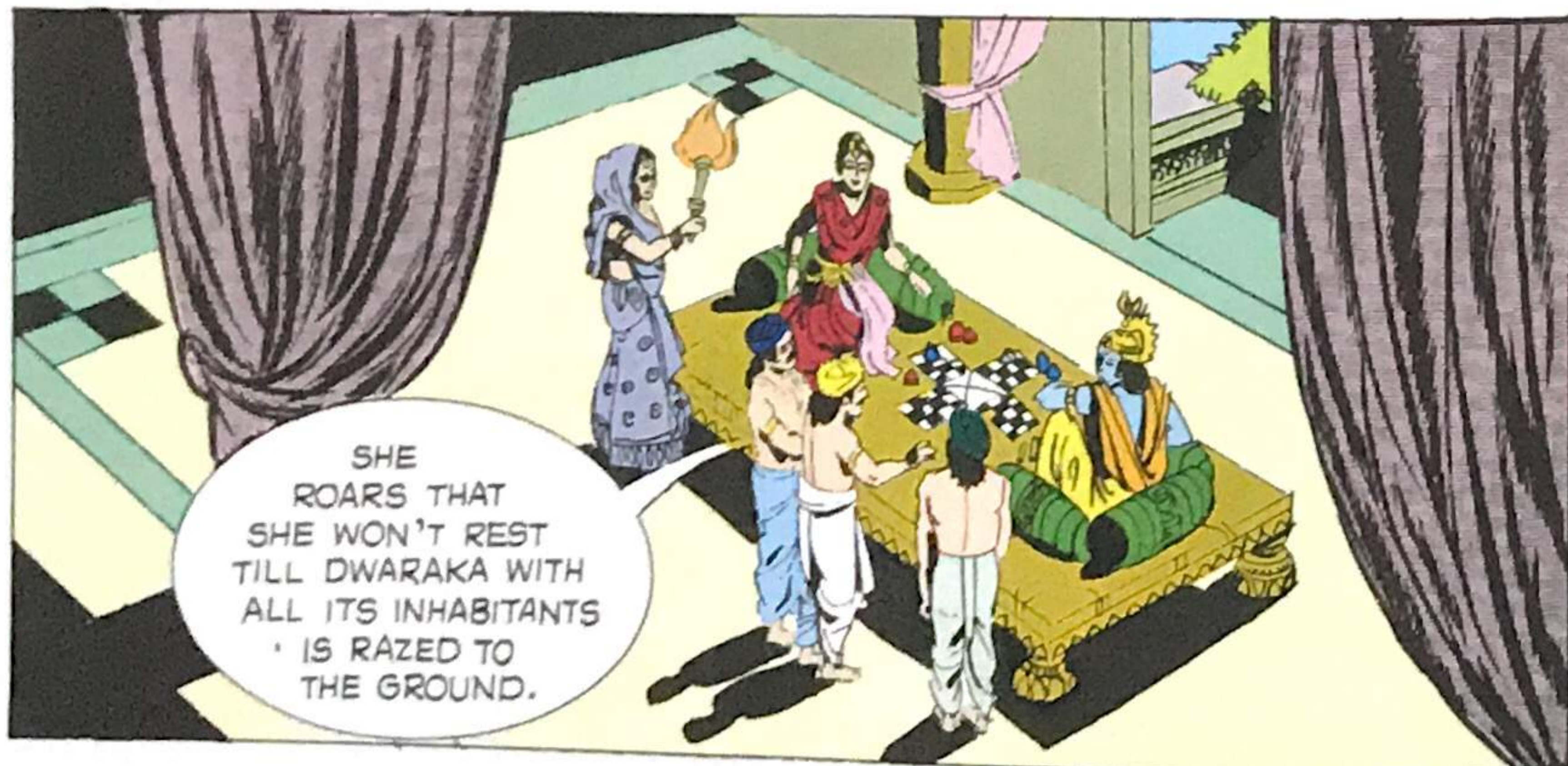
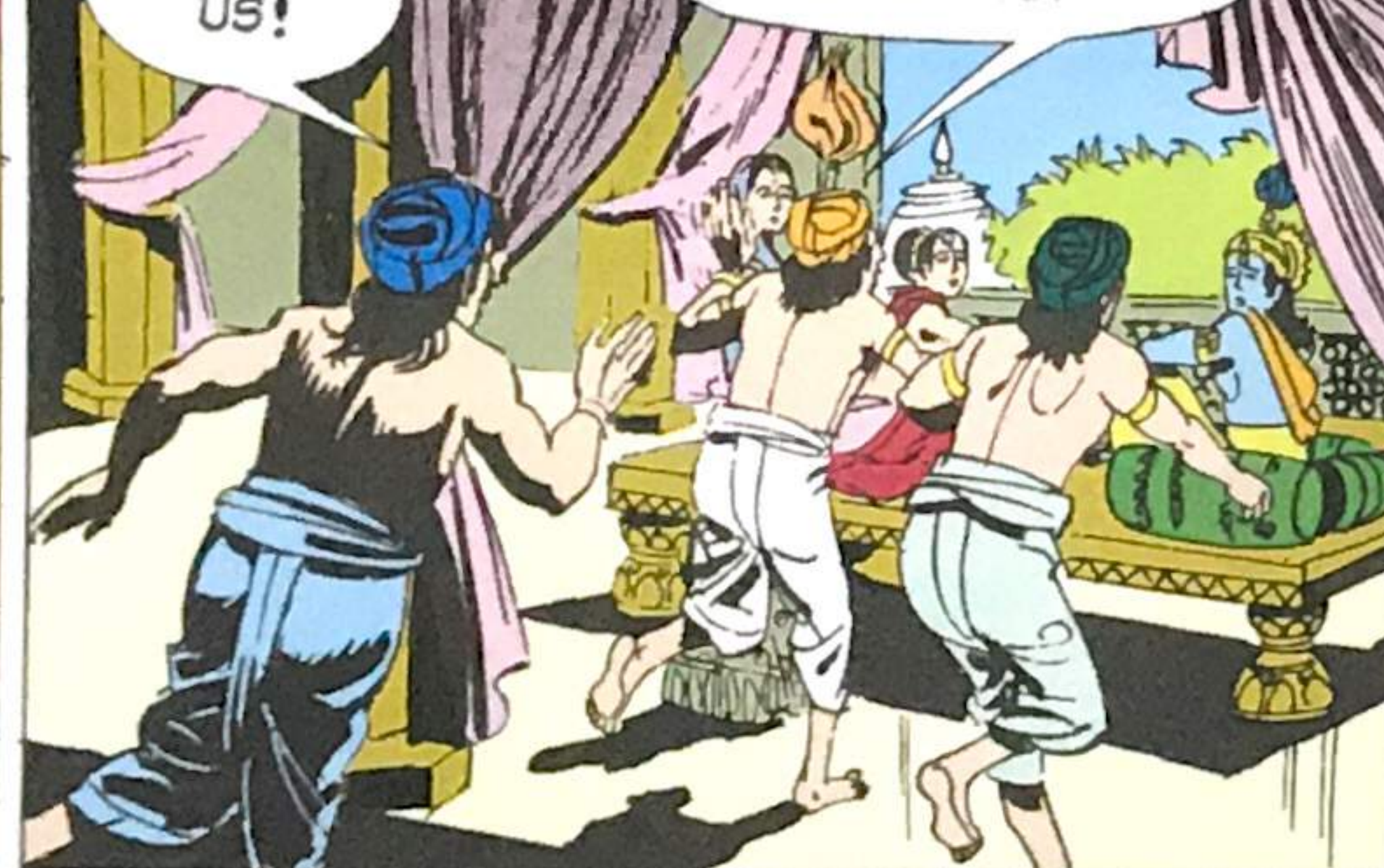


MEANWHILE AT DWARAKA, KRISHNA WAS PLAYING DICE WITH RUKMINI.



SUDDENLY — LORD SAVE US!

A FIERY FIEND IS HEADING TOWARDS DWARAKA.



SHE ROARS THAT SHE WON'T REST TILL DWARAKA WITH ALL ITS INHABITANTS IS RAZED TO THE GROUND.

DON'T BE ALARMED. GO TO YOUR HOMES. NOT A HAIR ON YOUR HEADS SHALL BE HARMED.

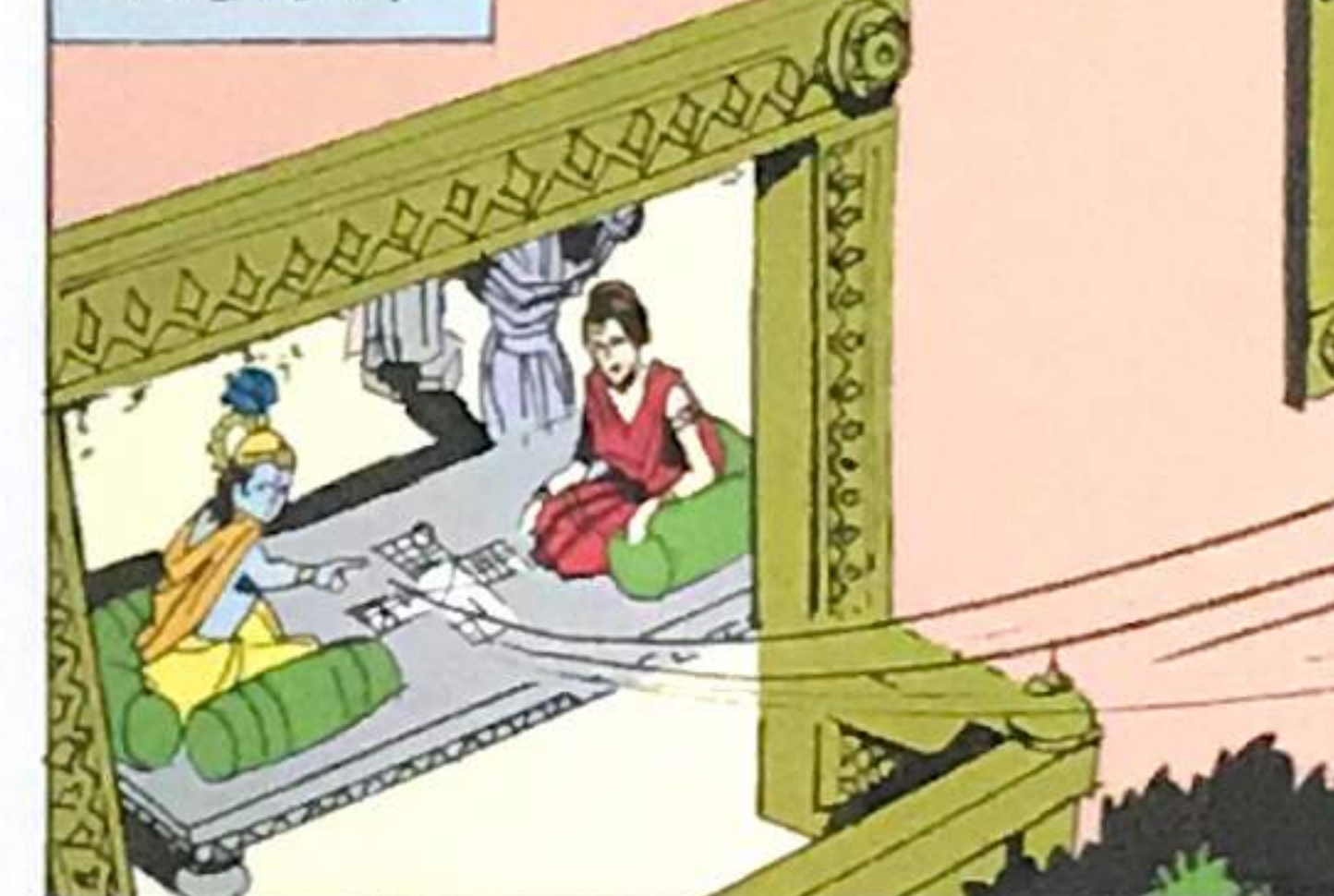


UNWILLING TO BE DISTURBED AT HIS GAME, KRISHNA TURNED TO HIS DISCUS.

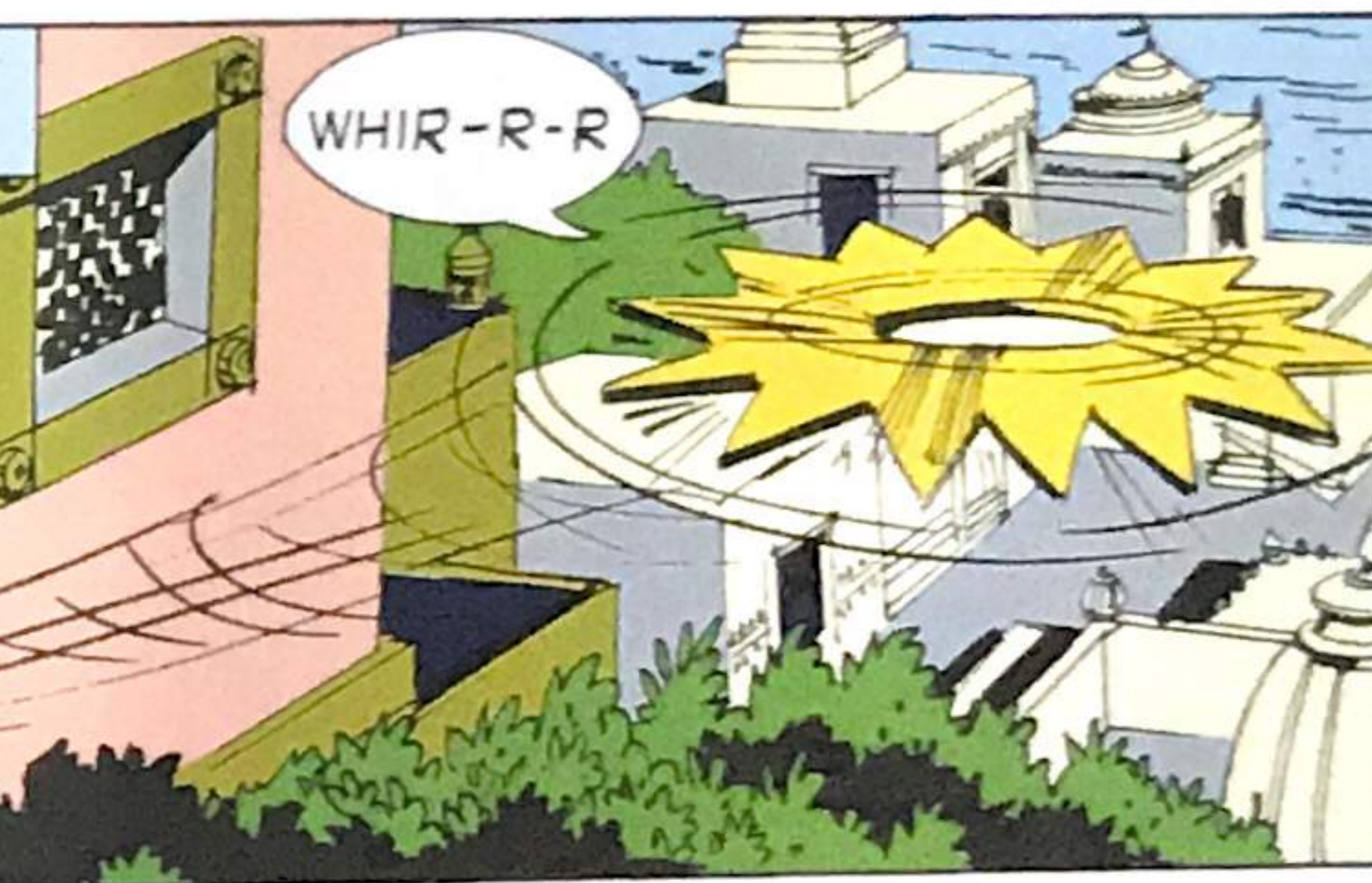


GO SUDARSHANA-CHAKRA! KILL THIS FIERCE CREATURE WITH FLAMING TRESSES!

WITH A LOUD WHIR, THE DISCUS IMMEDIATELY SET OUT ON ITS MISSION.



WHIR-R-R



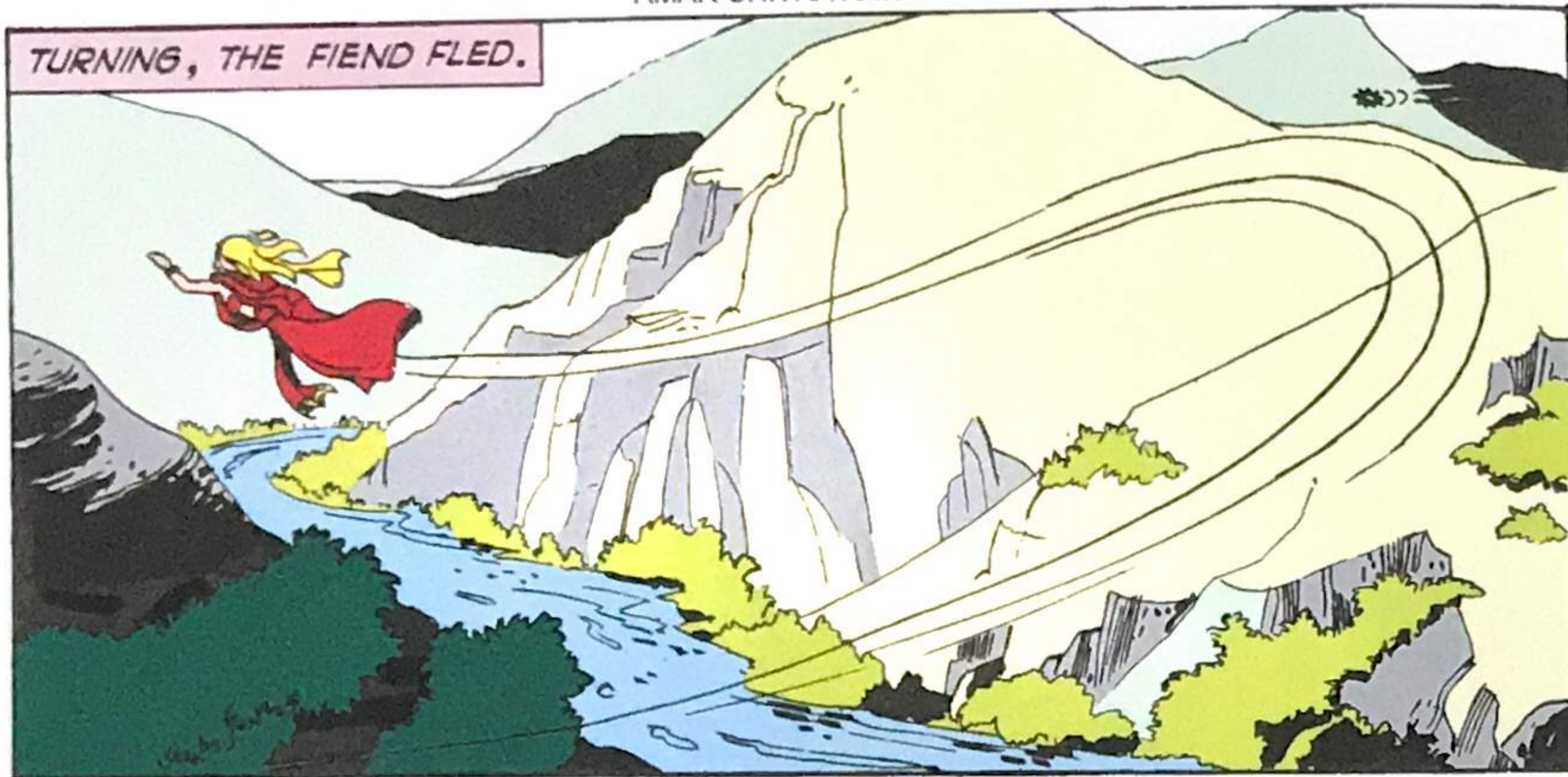
AS SOON AS THE FIERY FIEND HEARD THE WHIR —



IT'S THE MIGHTY SUDARSHANA CHAKRA! I MUST FLEE!



TURNING, THE FIEND FLED.



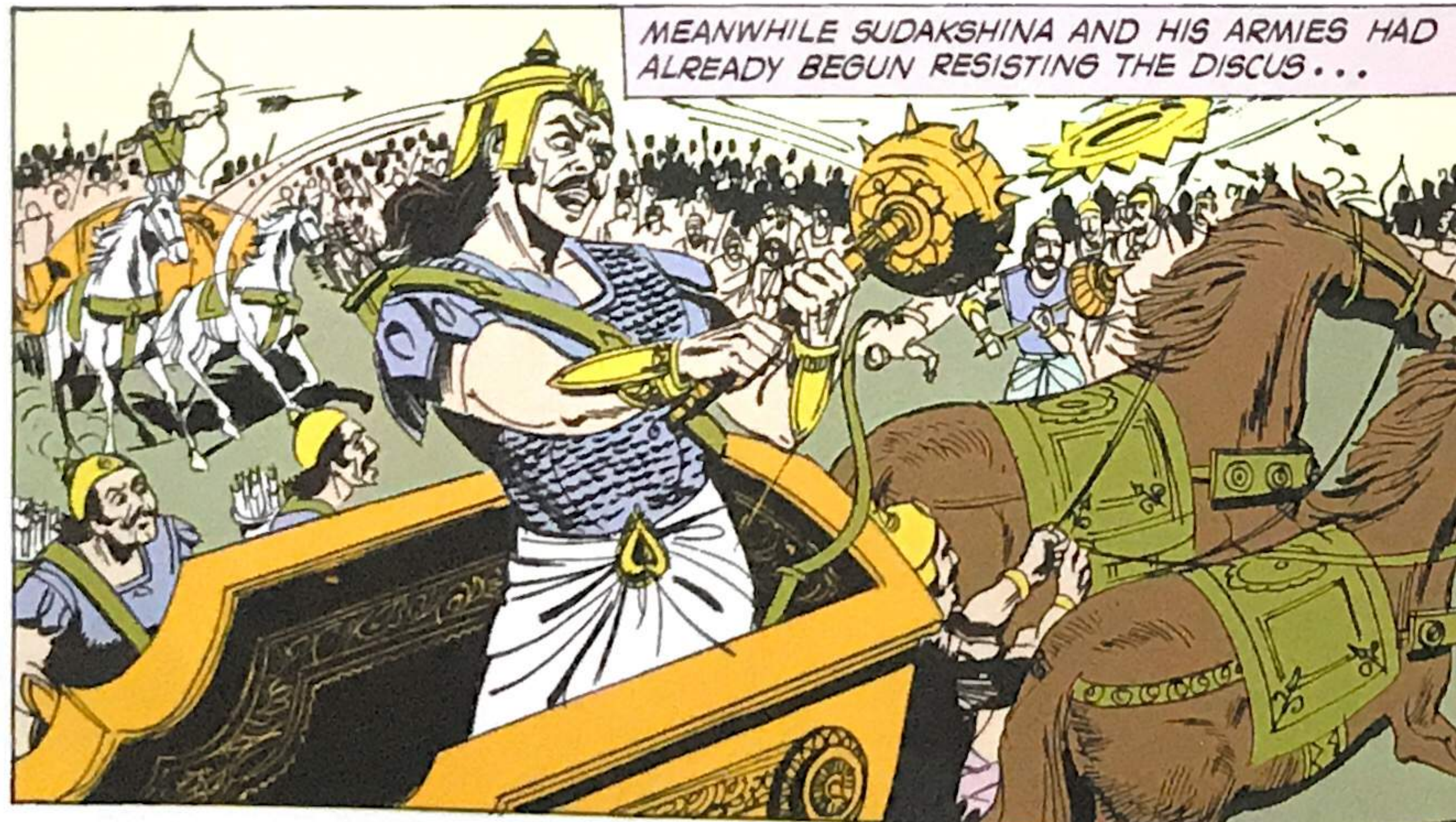
BUT THE DISCUS PURSUED HER RELENTLESSLY.



AH! THE CITY OF SUDAKSHINA. SINCE IT WAS SUDAKSHINA WHO BROUGHT ME TO THIS PLIGHT, I WILL SLAY HIM.



MEANWHILE SUDAKSHINA AND HIS ARMIES HAD ALREADY BEGUN RESISTING THE DISCUS...



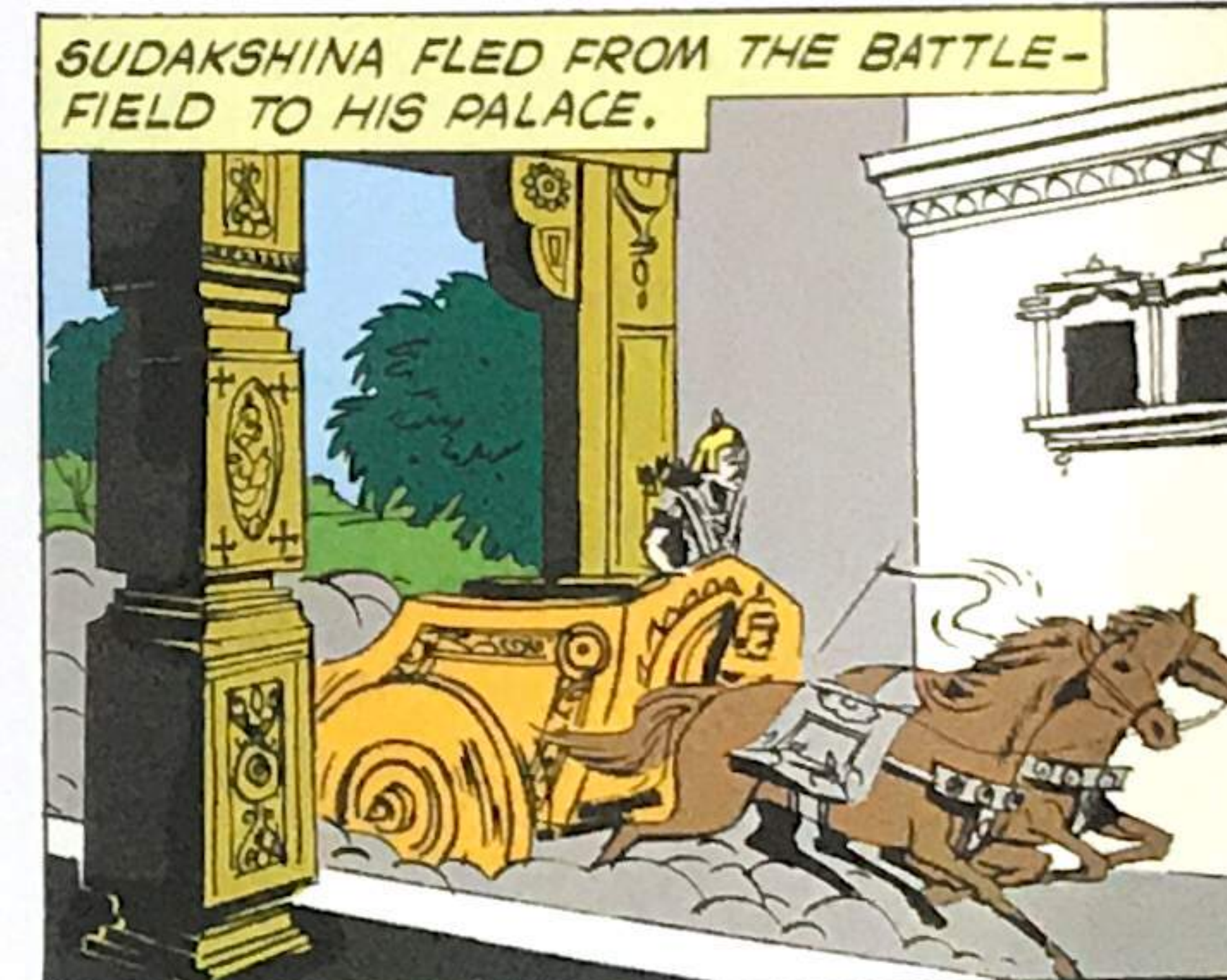
... BUT IN VAIN. THE DISCUS ATTACKED THEM WITH A VENGEANCE, FELLING THEM IN ALL DIRECTIONS. TILL...



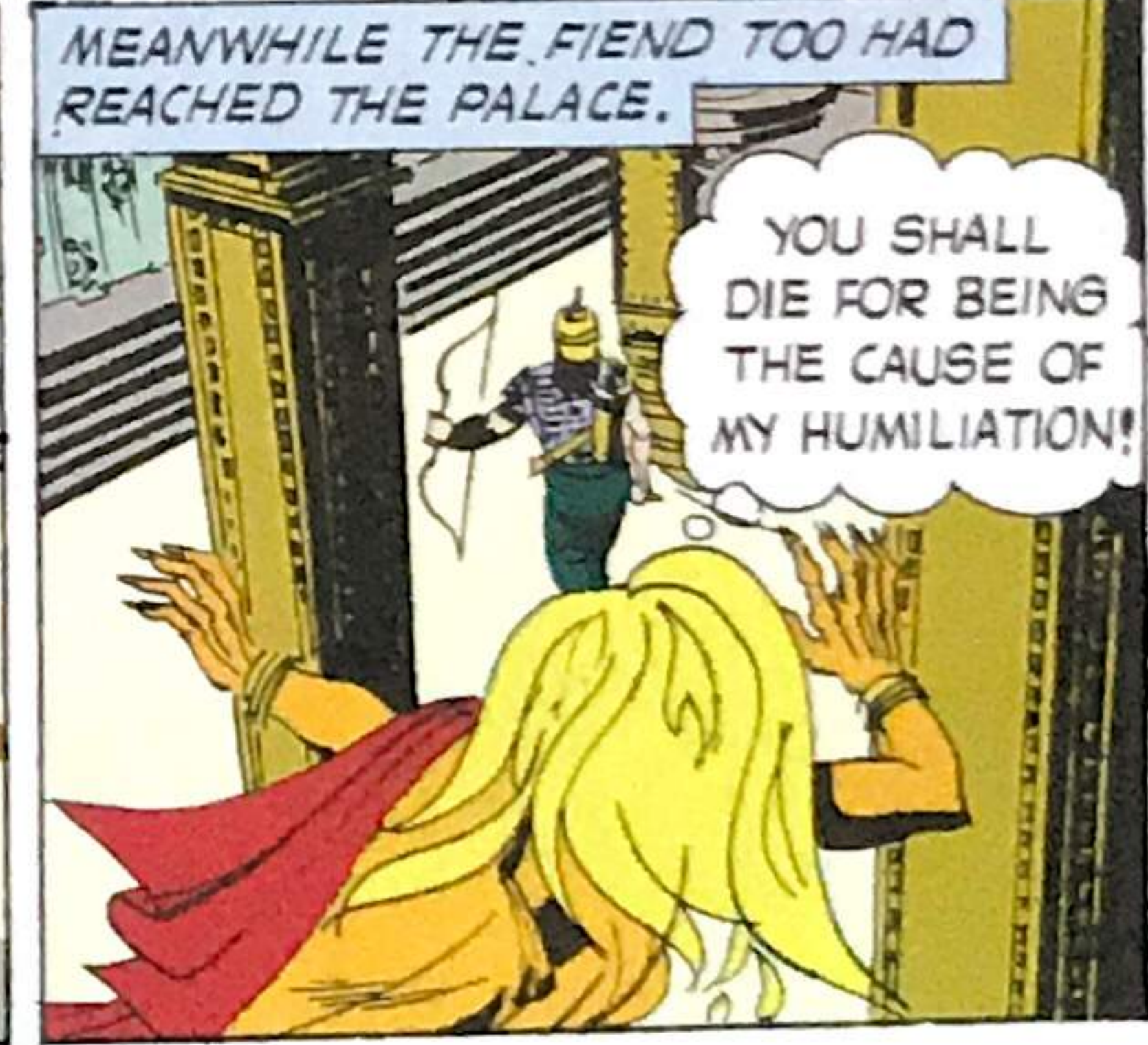
... THE LAST OF SUDAKSHINA'S SOLDIERS FELL.



SUDAKSHINA FLED FROM THE BATTLE-FIELD TO HIS PALACE.

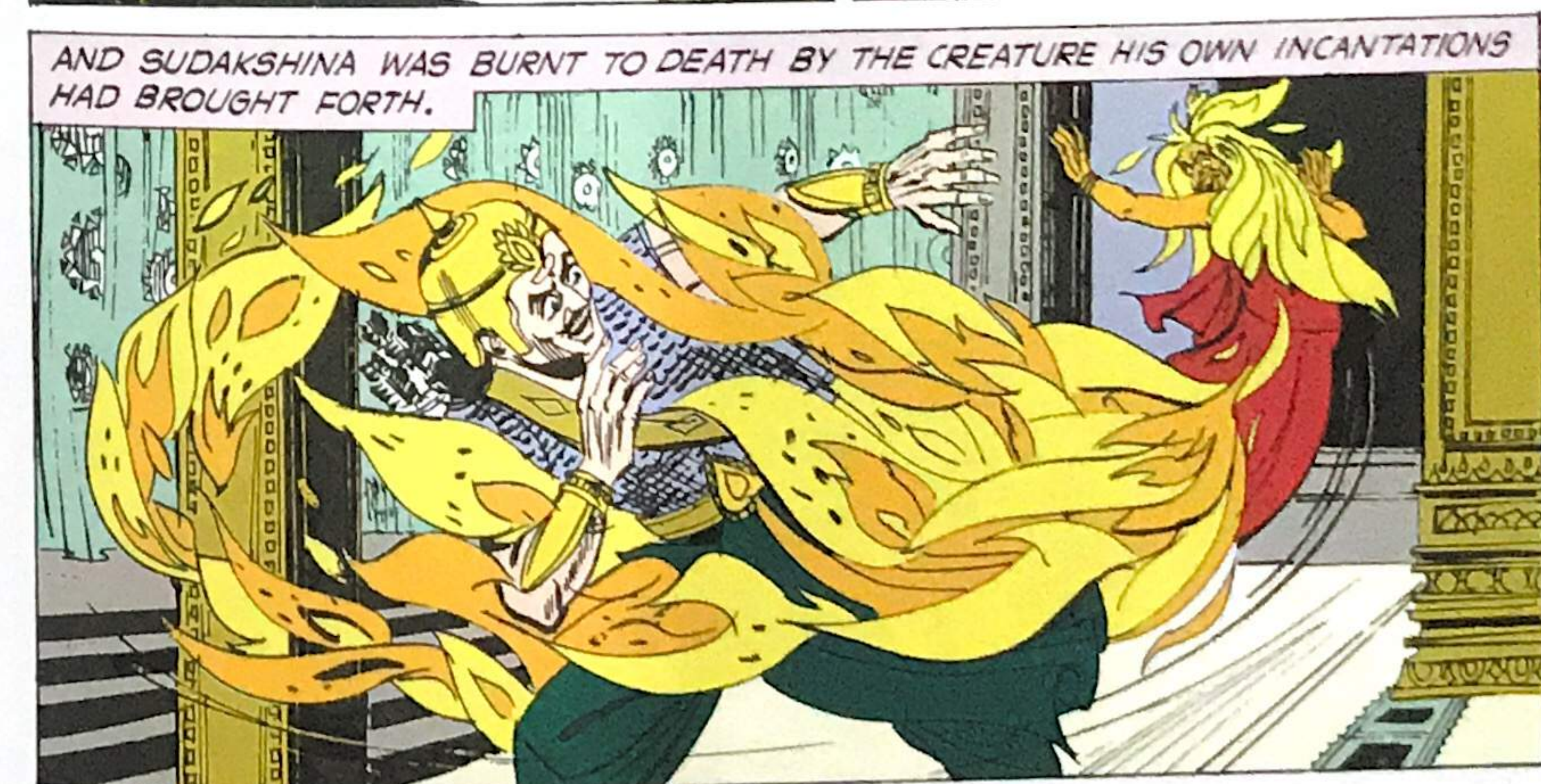


MEANWHILE THE FIEND TOO HAD REACHED THE PALACE.

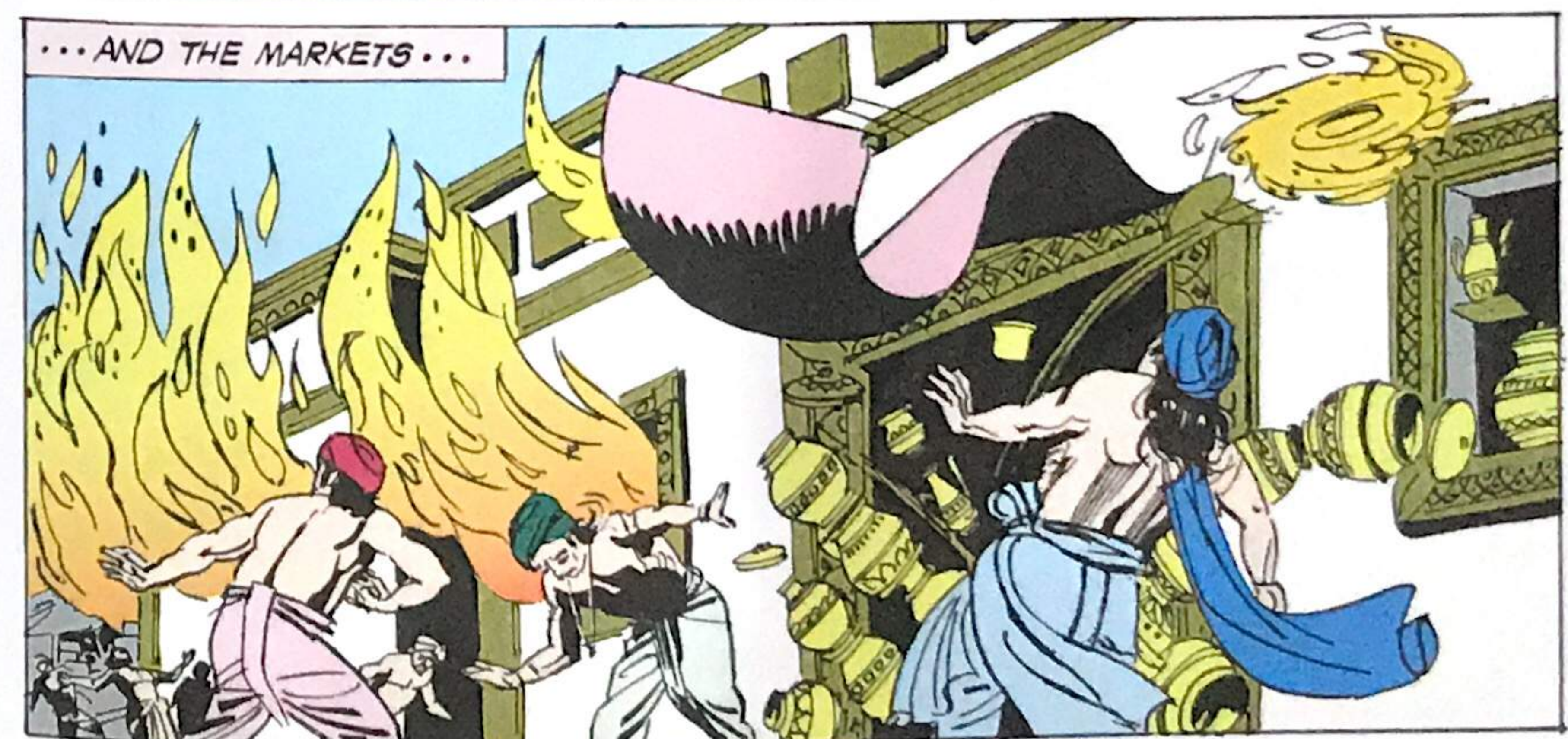
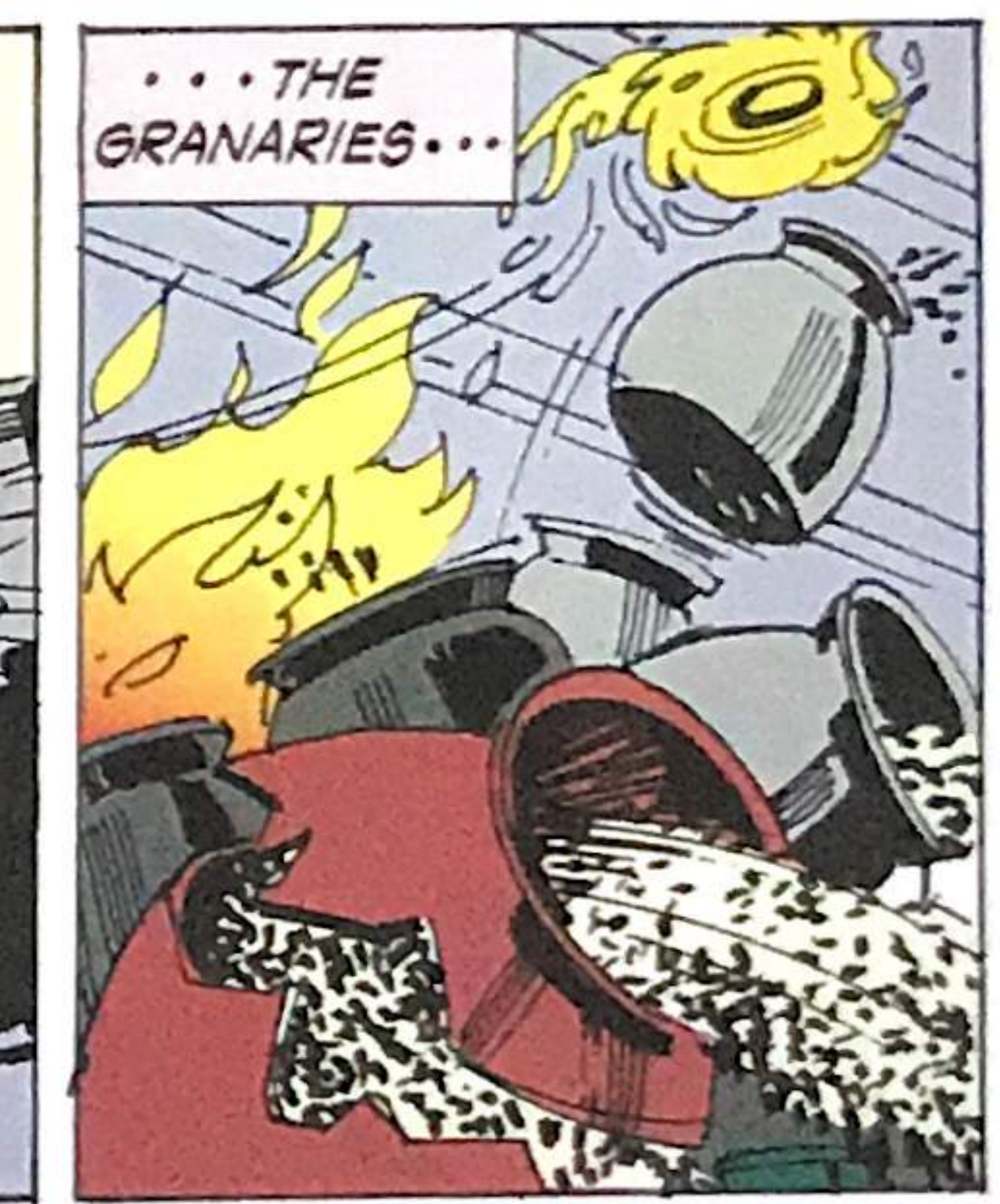
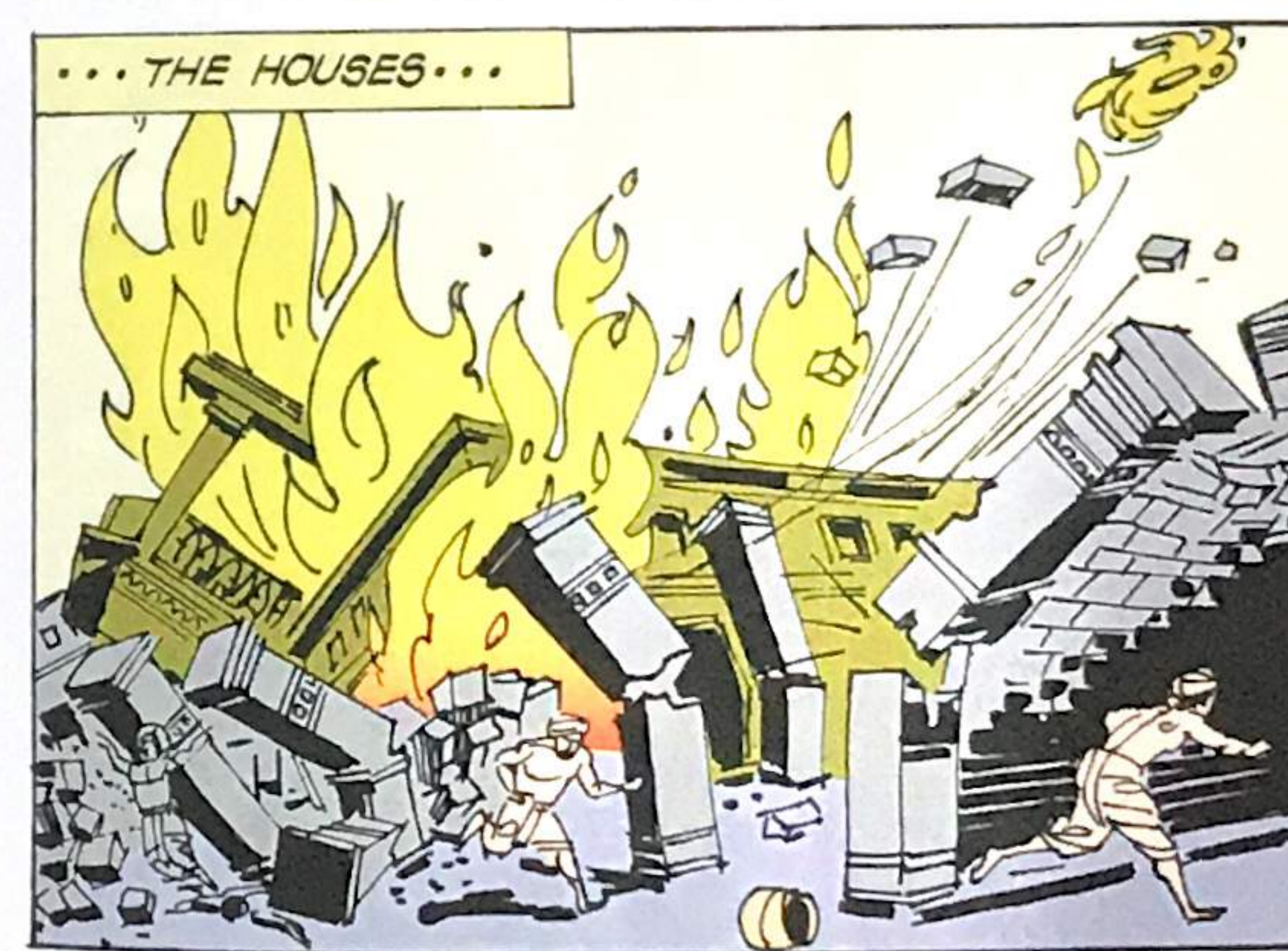
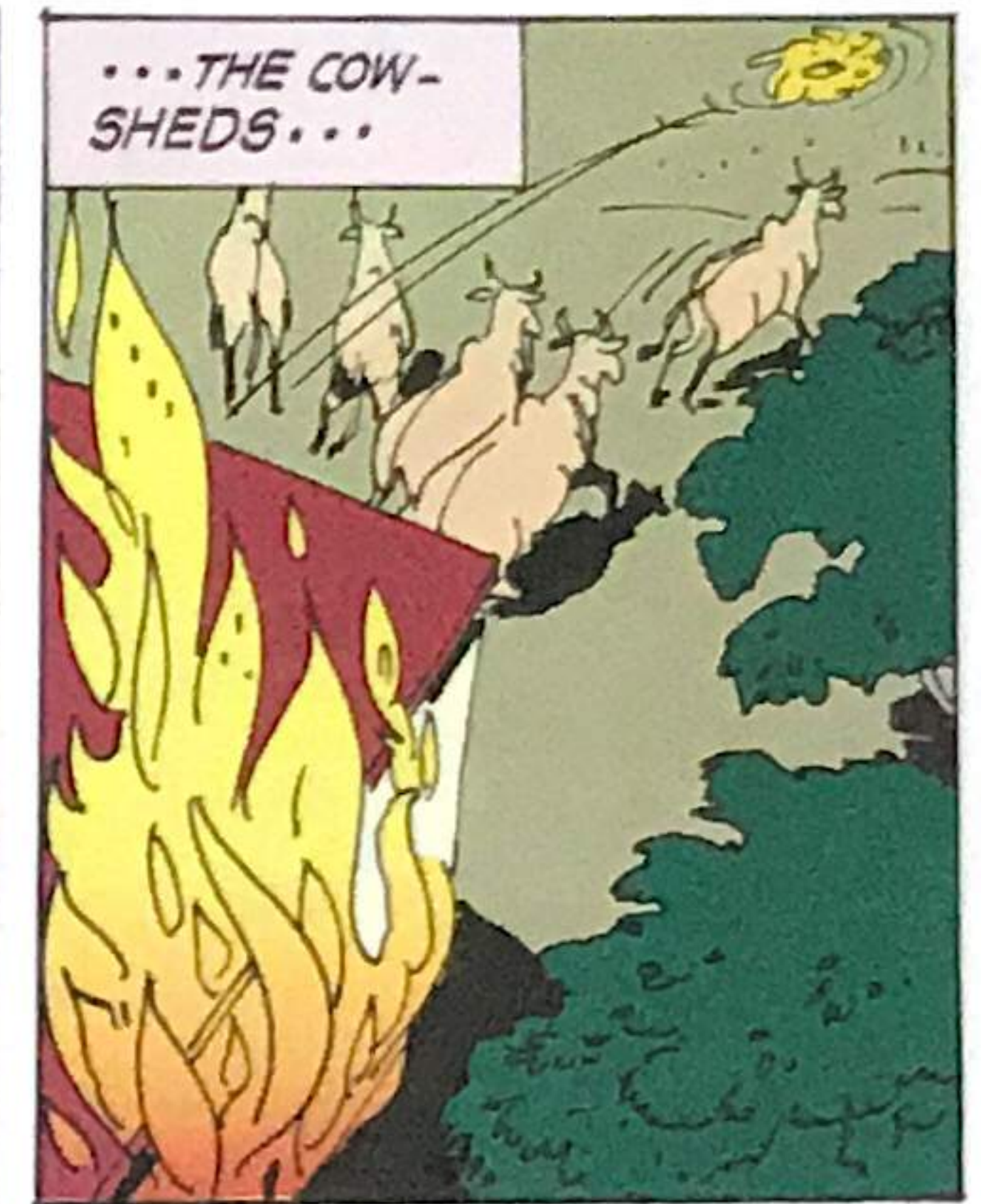
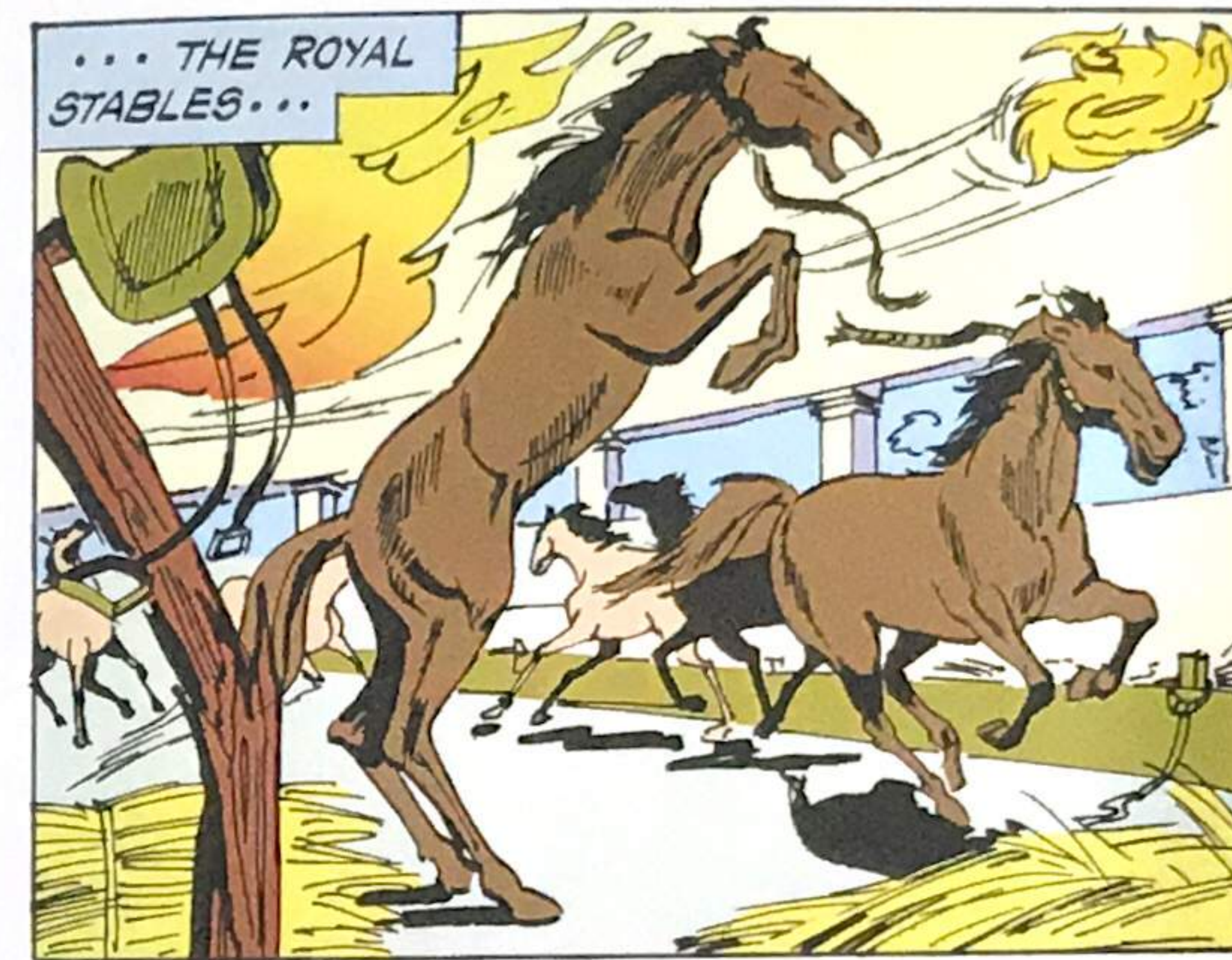
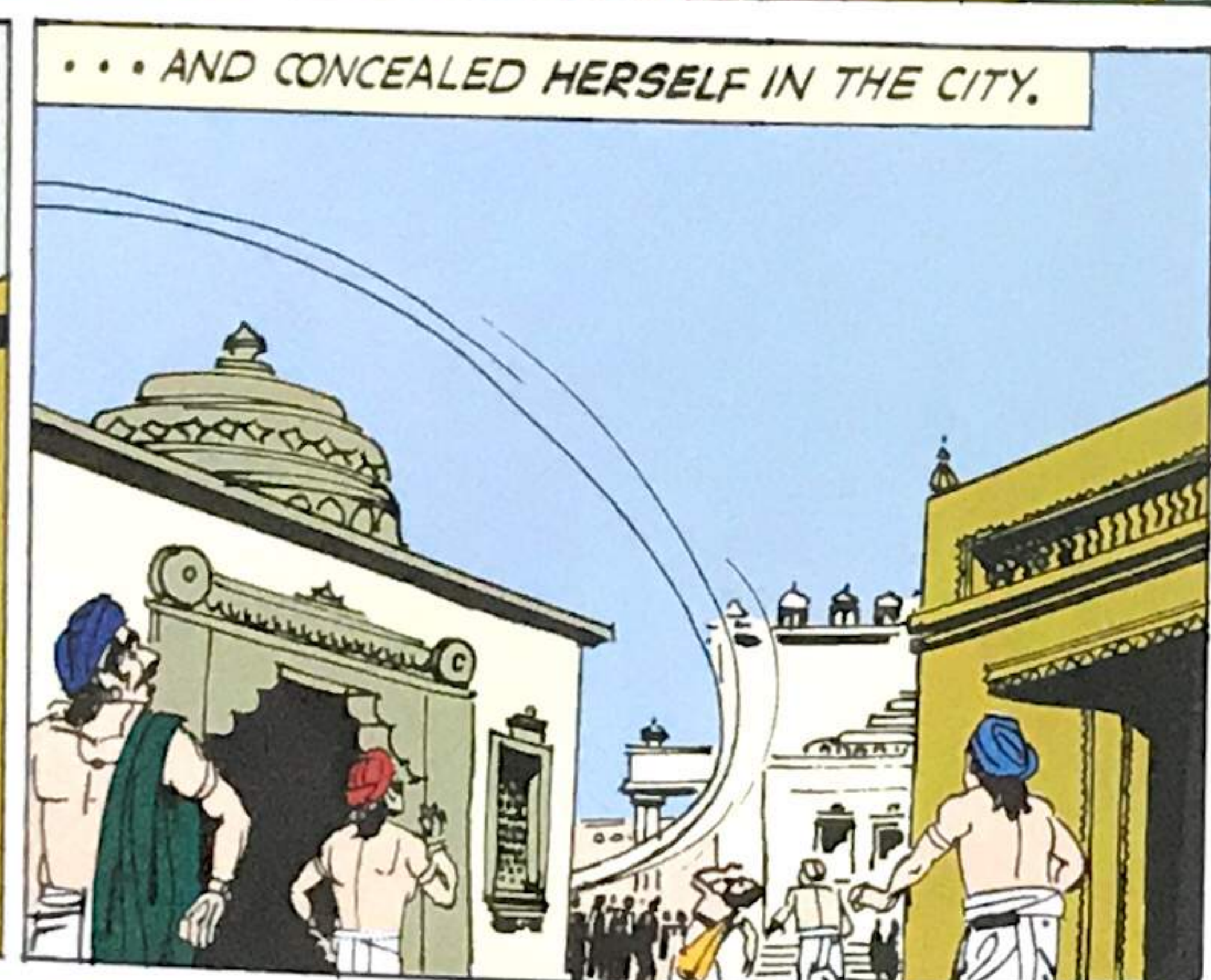


YOU SHALL DIE FOR BEING THE CAUSE OF MY HUMILIATION!

AND SUDAKSHINA WAS BURNT TO DEATH BY THE CREATURE HIS OWN INCANTATIONS HAD BROUGHT FORTH.





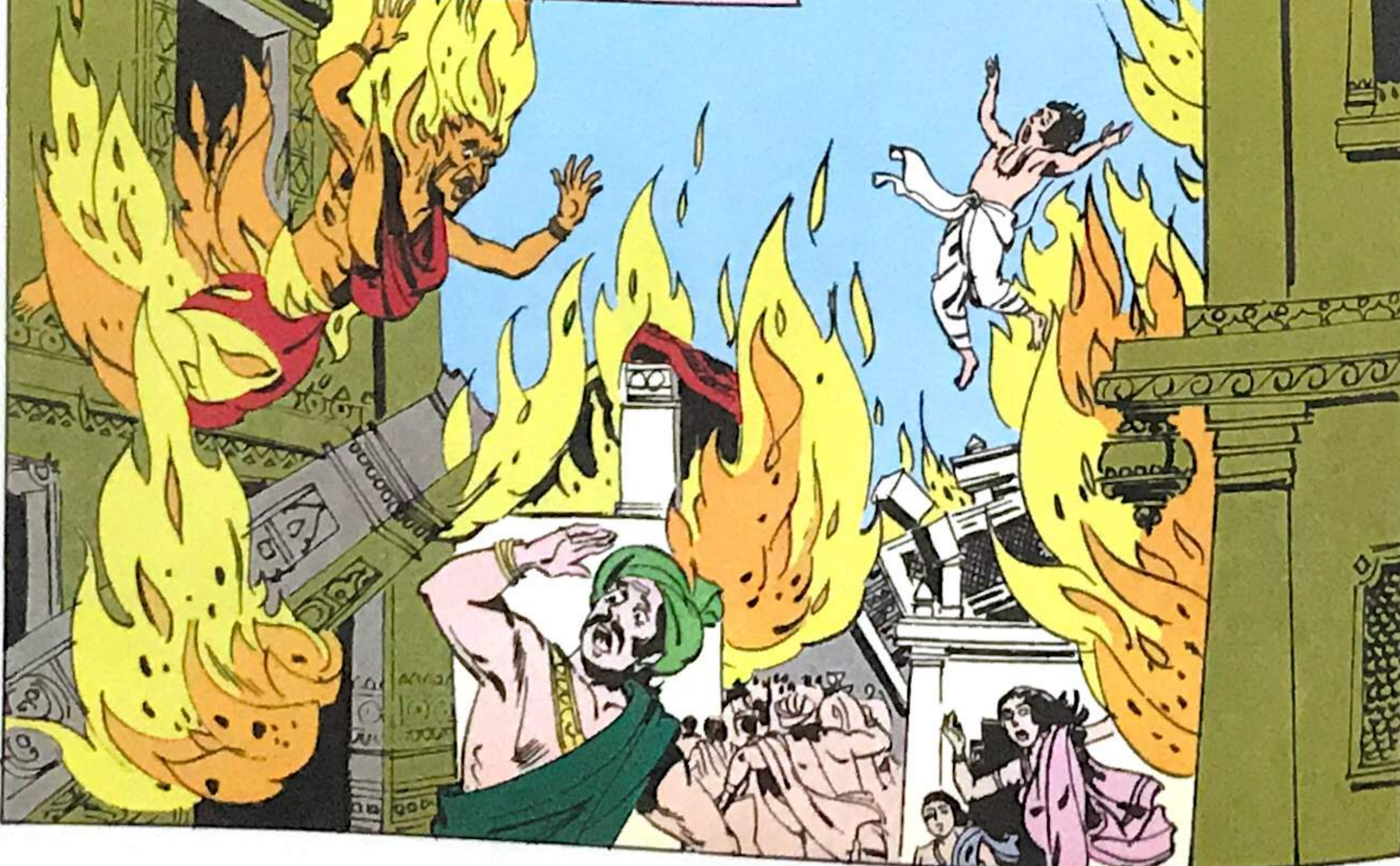




... TILL THE WHOLE CITY OF KASHI WAS WRAPPED UP IN FLAMES ...



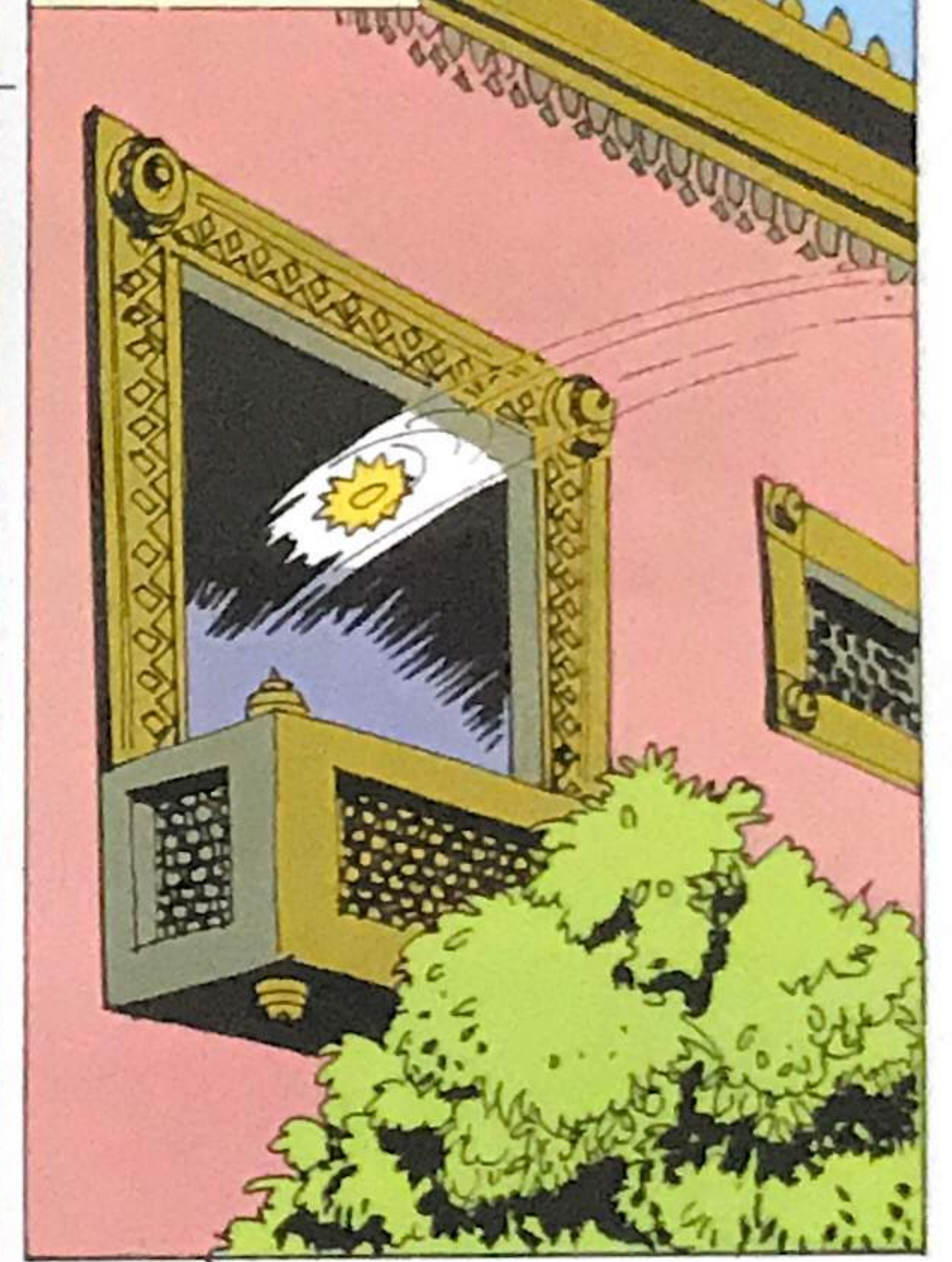
... WHICH CONSUMED EVEN THE FUGITIVE FIEND.



THE DISCUS, THEN, WITH UNMITIGATED VIGOUR AND BLAZING FIERCELY, WHIRLED AROUND AND ...



... WHIZZED BACK TO THE PALACE AT DWARAKA ...



... TO THE HANDS OF THE TRUE VAASUDEVA.

